Submitter:	D Clark
On Behalf Of:	
Committee:	House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	HB3166

I am a non-affiliated voter, part of Oregon's largest voting bloc, representing 37% of the electorate. Currently, only registered Democrats and Republicans can participate in their respective party primaries. This means 37% of the electorate, including me, are excluded from state-funded primaries and denied a voice in the selection of candidates.

House Bill 3166 (amended) proposes a shift to an open primary system. This would place all candidates on a single primary ballot, accessible to all voters, regardless of party affiliation. The top two vote-getters, regardless of party, would then advance to the general election?.

• Voter Choice: This system empowers non-affiliated voters and allows for greater participation in the electoral process and gives a voice in the selection of candidates.
• Fairness: It addresses the fundamental unfairness of excluding a large segment of taxpayers from the primary process.
• Spoiler Effect Mitigation: Open primaries can mitigate the unintentional spoiler effect that minor parties can have in general elections.

The increasing number of non-affiliated voters, coupled with the limitations of the current closed primary system, makes a compelling case for open primaries in Oregon. ? House Bill 3166 offers a practical and equitable solution, ensuring that all voters have a meaningful voice in the electoral process.

As a non-affiliated voter, I support voter choice and open primaries, which allow all taxpayers to have their voices heard.
Sincerely,
D Clark