Submitter:	Kurt Schrader
On Behalf Of:	HB 3166 -2
Committee:	House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	HB3166

I am a Democrat that served as U.S. Representative for Oregon's 5th Congressional District
from 2009-2023, during which time I was a member of the Problem Solvers Caucus, Blue
Dog Coalition, New Democrat Coalition and was ranked the most bipartisan House
member for Oregon. I support open primary reform (HB 3166-2) because open primaries
elect leaders who work across the aisle to solve big problems and represent broader
coalitions of voters. I support letting all registered Oregon voters vote in a unified primary,
the Unified Primary Act (HB 3166-2) as a foundational democracy reform.
Closed partisan primaries decided by a small percentage of voters are fueling extremism
both nationally and in Oregon. "Just 8% of the U.S. voting age population effectively
elected 83% of the U.S. House in partisan primaries. The result is that elected officials are
not accountable to the vast majority of voters, which rewards extremism, fuels division,
and distorts representation. Letting nonaffiliated voters vote in an open primary is the most
impactful democracy reform to improve voter turnout and decrease polarization, according
to research.
I support the Unified Primary Act (HB 3166-2) to let all registered Oregon voters vote in
state-funded primary elections, as a foundational democracy reform