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ATTN: Senate Rules Committee

Chair Burdick & members of the committee,

My name is Sal Peralta. I am testifying on behalf of the Independent Party of Oregon and its 120,000 members statewide. I am testifying today on SB 1510. Our party supports the bill, which appears to be an elections "cleanup" bill that makes several small changes, including:

- Clarifies contribution, expenditure and statement of organization reporting deadlines for committees.
- Removes ineligible candidates from the ballot in district elections.
- Extends time for filing officers to process write-in ballots.
- Clarifies definition of independent expenditures.

The bill also contains a provision to allow non-affiliated voters who are eligible to participate in a major party primary to request ballots electronically or in writing. IPO supports this expansion of service.

However, the party opposes the decision of the legislature and Secretary of State to eliminate funding for notices that have been sent to voters in each previous occasion that a political party has opened its primary to non-affiliated voters that informs those voters about their rights in relation to the primary election.

In 2016, the SOS as part of its effort to fulfill the statutory obligation to administer major party primary elections sent the attached notice to non-affiliated voters.. The result of that mailing was a significant and measurable boost in primary election turnout, especially in the Independent Party of Oregon primary. More than 50,000 non-affiliated voters requested ballots for the IPO primary and more than 17,000 of those voters participated, making it the largest participation of NAV's in a party primary election in Oregon History. The participation rate of NAVs in the 2016 IPO primary was more 35%, whereas participation rates for non-affiliated voters overall in that election was 20.7%.

Given that the need for this notice (as well as its high cost) is driven by the large number of people who are registered through the Motor Voter system that do not complete the registration process (85 percent of all registrants never return their card), we believe that the legislature should direct the SOS and DMV to determine the best way to allow for the entire voter registration process, including party registration, to be completed at the DMV. This would greatly reduce the number of non-affiliated voters in the state and reduce the impact that the state's Motor Voter law has on the ballot access for several of the state's minor and major political parties.

Sincerely,

Sal Peralta

Secretary, Independent Party of Oregon