

November 2nd, 2016

Portland City Council
City Hall
1221 SW Fourth Ave
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Mayor Hales; Commissioners Fish, Fritz, Novick, and Saltzman; and Auditor Hull Caballero,

As a diverse group of advocates that represents tens of thousands of Portlanders, we urge you to build on your work to advance transparent and participatory government in our city, and to join us in supporting the Open and Accountable Elections reform.

Portlanders are concerned that the current system of how candidates raise money creates barriers for people from our communities to participate in our democracy. For instance, in the 2012 elections, sixty percent of all money raised for city campaigns came from just a few hundred donors who gave over \$1000. Their \$1.7 million dwarfed the \$570,000 from 6,000 small donors who gave less than \$250.¹ This dynamic makes it more difficult for the everyday person to feel engaged in his or her democracy.

Our city is stronger when everyone has an equal say and greater opportunity to engage in our democracy, whether by running for office to represent their own communities, or bringing their perspectives forward on the policies that impact us all. Though Portland faces a host of challenges—such as housing affordability, displacement, homelessness, police accountability, fair wage and hiring laws, tax policy, and immigration reform—we know we can meet them together. We want to raise our voices to unlock meaningful solutions to our city's biggest challenges. Open and Accountable Elections creates new pathways to get us there.

Our groups are on the front lines every day advancing the interests of Portland's women, people of color, working families, immigrant communities, small businesses, young people, seniors, LGBTQ individuals, and other underrepresented groups. We believe in a Portland where the people we serve contribute to meaningful solutions to our city's biggest challenges, and where they have a truly equal chance to run for office to do so. But there are real barriers to running and participating under our current system.

Open and Accountable Elections Portland offers a powerful suite of tools to boost the trust and pride Portlanders have in their local government and to offer more Portlanders an avenue to engage in the city that we all love.

We hope you will vote in favor of the Open and Accountable Elections reform. Thank you for your consideration, and continued service to the people of Portland

Sincerely,

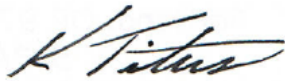
¹ "In Portland Elections, 600 Big Donors Tip the Scales" The Sightline Institute. May 27, 2016. <http://www.sightline.org/2016/05/27/in-portland-elections-600-big-donors-tip-the-campaign-scales/>



Julia Meier
Executive Director
Coalition of Communities of Color



Rev. Joseph Santos Lyons
Executive Director
Asian Pacific Action Network of Oregon



Kate Titus
Executive Director
Common Cause Oregon



Frances Dyke
President
League of Women Voters of Portland



Carmen Rubio
Executive Director
Latino Network



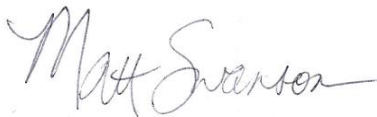
Doug Moore
Executive Director
Oregon League of Conservation Voters



Nick Sauvie
Executive Director
Rose Community Development



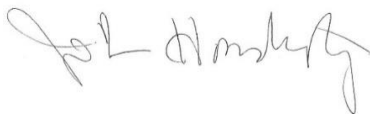
Khanh Le
Oregon State Director
Main Street Alliance of Oregon



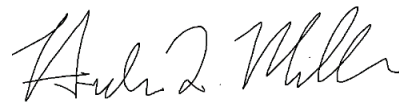
Matt Swanson
Executive Director
SEIU Oregon State Council



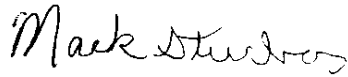
Kayse Jama
Executive Director
Unite Oregon



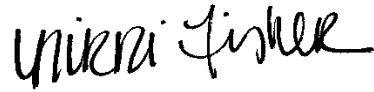
Jo Ann Hardesty
President
NAACP Portland Branch 1120



Andrea Williams
Executive Director
CAUSA Oregon



Mark Sturbois
Legislative Advisor
Communications Workers of America
Local 7901



Nikki Fisher
Executive Director
The Bus Project



Jesse Beason
Board Member
Color PAC



Nkenge Harmon Johnson
President and CEO
The Urban League of Portland



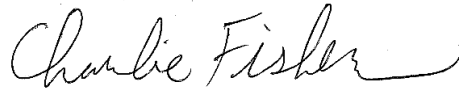
Maigen Bergio
Board Secretary
Portland Forward




Emma Easley Darden
Co-Founder
BerniePDX



Jason Miner
Executive Director
1000 Friends of Oregon



Charlie Fisher
Executive Director
Oregon State Public Interest Research Group



Erica Stock
Oregon Chapter Director
The Sierra Club



Huy Ong
Executive Director
OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon



Karly Edwards
State Director
Oregon Working Families Party



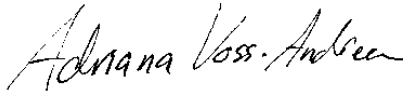
Liela Forbes
President
Associated Students of
Portland State University



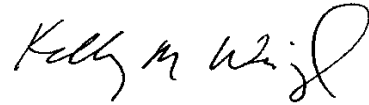
Mathias Quackenbush
Organizer
Democracy Spring Oregon



David Delk
Chair
Move to Amend PDX



Adriana Voss-Andreae
Executive Director
350PDX



Kelley Weigel
Executive Director
Western State Center



Aram Andriesian
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Noel Mickelberry
Executive Director
Oregon Walks