

David Brock Smith

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Committees

Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction—Co Vice Chair

Joint Ways & Means Committee on Natural Resources

Agriculture & Land Use

Natural Resources

OREGON STATE LEGISLATURE
900 COURT ST NE SALEM, OREGON 97301

6/6/2019

Vote Explanation on HB 2714

I voted NO on HB 2714 for the following reasons and more...

- HB 2714 unfairly advantages public employee unions by exempting small donor PACs, which unions are uniquely positioned to grow. The unions will be able to make unlimited contributions to candidates while other interest groups will be limited to \$2,800.
- HB 2714 discriminates based on the content of a potential donor's message, creating winners and losers. As political power shifts, this law could be changed at the expense of whatever party is not in the majority.
- HB 2714, by exempting some groups based on their advocacy goals, will further exacerbate political polarization in Oregon, by enabling certain groups of activists, on both ends of the political spectrum, to have unlimited ability to influence elections, while others are subject to the limits.
- HB 2714 will increase the use of dark money in Oregon politics, by forcing organizations subject to the campaign limits to turn to the use of less regulated independent expenditures as a response to the unlimited campaign spending by those groups that are exempted.
- HB 2714 gives more power to political parties, by exempting contributions by organized political parties and party caucuses, diminishing the impact of independent voices in the electoral process.

Respectfully,

David Brock Smith

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