

OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HOUSE DISTRICT 35

June 11, 2025

Timothy G. Sekerak Chief Clerk of the House State Capitol Building Salem, OR 97301

Re: Vote Explanation on HB 3908

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

Thank you for accepting my vote explanation for HB 3908. I am a strong supporter of minor parties in our state because I believe in changing the two party system. So while I understand many of them support this bill, I still made the decision to be a "no" vote. Under current statute, a group of affiliated voters is designated as a "major political party" when at least five percent of eligible voters are registered as members. HB 3908 would raise that threshold to ten percent of voters. This bill was brought forward by the Independent Party of Oregon as they are not interested in becoming a major party subject to the requirements of a major party. But that would put an additional hardship on other minor parties that would like to become major parties in the future by making them double their efforts in registering voters. That would be like doubling the signature requirements to qualify an initiative petition for the ballot. We should be making democracy more accessible, not less. The Independent Party of Oregon does not wish to become a major party at the current threshold, but that does not mean our first approach should be to place additional barriers on other parties that do.

Sincerely

Representative Farrah Chaichi

House District 35