

**GREG MATTHEWS**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
DISTRICT 50



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**900 Court St NE**  
**Salem, OR 97301**

**Contribution Limits Bill to Receive Hearing In House Rules Committee Wednesday**  
*Representative Greg Matthews to present his ideas for reform*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 28<sup>th</sup> 2011

Contact: Derek Bradley

Office: 503-986-1450 Cell: 812-320-5678

(Salem)- On Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, the House Rules Committee will take testimony on House Bill 2239 a bill that, with its companion bill House Joint Resolution 3, would establish campaign contribution limits in Oregon.

Oregon is one of only three states without any contribution limits and we have the second highest election costs of any state in the country. Only New Jersey elections cost more per capita.

The bill takes a more nuanced approach to campaign financing than previous attempts to establish limits in the state. It would create limits on contributions to individuals as well as to political party PACs. It would create separate limits for in-kind donations, small donor PAC donations and corporate and union treasury donations.

“This is a reasonable approach to a big problem facing Oregon. We understand that money plays a role in politics and that free speech is a cornerstone of our democracy, and we support that,” said State Representative Greg Matthews (HD50- Gresham), the author of the bill. “What we are doing is putting downward pressure on campaign spending, and making it necessary for any person or group who wants to make a serious investment in a candidate to do more than simply write a huge check and walk away.”

A recently commissioned poll shows overwhelming support (80%) among Oregonians for campaign contribution limits. Matthews recognized that, “this is clearly something that the people of Oregon want and it is something that many people in the State Capitol also want. But any attempt to change how campaign financing works is an uphill battle, but I believe that the thirty-thirty split between Democrats and Republicans in the State House provides us with a unique opportunity to get this done and to do it right.”

Oregonians approved a different set of limits in 2004 but failed to pass the constitutional amendment that is needed for limits to take effect. Matthews feels that his contribution limits are more reasonable and will garner more support among people involved in the process, “Hopefully

everyone will realize that we have a chance not just to talk about improving how government works but to take a big step forward in making elected officials more accountable to the people of Oregon.”

The hearing is set for March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3pm in Hearing Room 50 and is open to public and press. Streaming video and audio are available at <http://www.leg.state.or.us/listn/>.

###