



Green Party of Sacramento County
P.O. Box 7531
Citrus Heights, CA

The Honorable Senator Anthony J. Portantino

State Capitol, Room 2206

Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 505 (Umberg), OPPOSE

Dear Senator Portantino and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee,

On behalf of the Green Party of Sacramento County, I am writing to register our OPPOSITION to Senate Bill 505 (Umberg). We respectfully urge the committee to oppose this proposal, as well.

SB 505 is a last-minute proposal which, if passed, would take immediate effect, and would be used in the upcoming 2020 Presidential Elections. The proposed bill aims to add stricter requirements for candidates to be considered for nomination by their party. The types of requirements suggested may be easily-attainable for well-funded, or corporately-funded candidates, but the new requirements become just another series of difficult tasks and steps for parties who are supported by volunteers and much-smaller sums of donations.

Candidates would have to fulfill two of five choices of requirements to qualify to be on the primary ballot in March. For a political party like Green Party, some of the options are particularly difficult- like meeting qualification for Federal Matching Funds as early as late November of this year, or appearing on another state ballot when California has such an early primary, etc. Even of the options which are feasible, political parties like Green Party, who resist corporate funding, have very little extra time, energy and funds to put towards unnecessary extra steps in what is supposed to be an inclusive democratic process.

Under the Green Party's Pillar, *Democracy*, we feel that access to the political process should never be hindered. Under our Key Value, *Grassroots Democracy*, we believe that the public should be represented by people who are beholden to the public, not to big financial interests. SB 505 would hurt grassroots political parties and candidates who refuse corporate funding.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committee to oppose this bill at its hearing, in order to encourage a fair and inclusive democratic process within our presidential elections, and we thank you for taking the time to read our testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicole Castor', written in a cursive style.

Nicole Castor

Co-Coordinator and Spokesperson

County Council of the Green Party of Sacramento County