

New Mexicans for Money Out of Politics (NM MOP)

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28th Amendment Language Subcommittee Meeting, September 25, 2017

Present: John House, chair; Herb Faling; Bruce Berlin; and David Burling

Absent: Laura Atkins; Debbie Helper; Bernie Frimond

Minutes by David Burling, amended by JLH

There were bullet points focusing on the contents of proposed language as well as a draft amendment by John, comments on John's by Laura, and a draft amendment by Debbie. David Burling volunteered to take minutes, but only on areas of agreement and not on the contents of discussions.

On the bullet points all we agreed to was that the proposal should require legislative action (as the Nolen bill does), not just authorize it (as the Udall bill does) and that we need to include language clearly articulating a primary goal of this amendment is to prevent undue influence by big money. It was also agreed that the bullet point list should contain the reasons or selling points for a 28th Amendment.

After some further discussion of bullet points, we moved directly to the amendment language, and agreed to certain changes to the House draft, as follows:

1. Section 1: add "All" before "artificial entities"
2. Section 1: add a comma after "any foreign state" in the 5th line
3. Section 1: Change "or" to "and" in the 7th line
4. Section 1: Delete "such" before "artificial entities" in the 8th line
5. Section 2: delete "political" before "contributions" in the 2nd line
6. Section 2: Delete "in order" before "to prevent" in the 3rd line
7. Section 2: Delete "be made to" before "apply to" in the 15th line
8. Section 4: delete "also pass laws requiring disclosure of all contributions and expenditures, regardless of dollar or value amount, in order to promote transparency in the election process" in lines 1-4 and substitute the Nolen language as follows: "require that any permissible contributions and expenditures be publicly disclosed"

There was some discussion of the other proposed sections, but no conclusions reached before the meeting adjourned. Much progress was made, but another meeting or meetings will probably be required to finalize agreement on the remaining sections. The primary issue continues to be how specific the proposal should be and how much should be left to legislation pursuant to the amendment.