

**Testimony before House Committee on Elections
in Support of House Bill 2083
by Carol Williams, Executive Director
January 26, 2015**

House Bill 2083 would eliminate the requirement that treasurers for candidates, political action committees, and party committee list the industry of individual contributors who donate more than \$150 on receipts and expenditures reports.

In 2008, the Governmental Ethics Commission recommended treasurers be required to list the employer of individual donors who contribute more than \$150 on their receipts and expenditures reports. The Legislature chose to require the industry of a donor be listed rather than the donor's employer.

Staff's comprehensive desk reviews of the receipts and expenditures reports filed since 2008 reflect many treasurers do not correctly list the industry of individuals donating more than \$150. Staff does not believe it is intentional on the part of treasurers to incorrectly list or omit the industry of donors, but more that the treasurers did not know how to categorize the donor's industry as it relates to the individual's occupation. As a result of these omissions, many candidates have received Notifications of Material Error or Omission requiring the treasurer to correctly list the industry.

The Governmental Ethics Commission and its staff support passage of HB 2083. Deleting the requirement that "industry" be listed in addition to "occupation" on receipts and expenditures reports will save staff time, agency resources, and make it easier for treasurers to comply with the Campaign Finance Act.