***Don’t let legislators steal your right to vote laws that impact your business.***

It’s your business. It’s your livelihood and life. And, if legislators in Salem pass harmful laws that hurt our small businesses – and, ultimately, our employees – Oregonians should have a right to be heard on these issues. But these same legislators are routinely taking away your constitutional right to vote to overturn their bad laws by claiming a “fake” emergency exists. By including so-called “emergency clauses”, these laws go into effect immediately. The result: Oregon voters don’t have a chance to refer the laws to the ballot for a vote of the people.

Over half of all new laws introduced in Oregon in 2015 contained these “fake” emergency clauses. Some of the laws that circumvented Oregonians’ right to be heard:

* The low-carbon-fuel-standards law (SB 324) that will increase the price of a gallon of gas by 20 cents to $1 for Oregonians through a hidden gas tax
* A law that made it unlawful for employers to ask job applicants to check a box if they’ve been convicted of a felony

The “No Fake Emergencies” measure (Initiative Petition 49) still allows the legislature to pass laws dealing with real emergencies, but will safeguard the people’s right to be heard on our legislature’s handiwork. It requires a two-thirds supermajority to pass any legislation with an “emergency clause” except for regular funding bills or bills responding to “catastrophic disasters.” (Bills to increase taxes already require a supermajority.) This will keep legislators from skirting Oregonians’ right to refer bad laws and give those of us who oppose their bad-for-business bills more leverage in legislative negotiations.

It’s time that “We the People” stop the politicians from people-proofing their laws by signing the “No More Fake Emergencies” petition to amend Oregon’s constitution making it harder for politicians to claim “fake” emergencies. Proponents are now collecting signatures for Initiative Petition 49. Go here to download a petition to sign: <http://nofakeemergencies.org>. Please do so right now. And urge your employees to do the same.

When legislators are passing laws that hurt our companies and our workers, it’s all of our business. Initiative Petition 49 will protect everyone’s right to be heard.