

# Written

## 3/25/13

TO: General Administration and Elections Committee  
RE: SBI 146 An Act Concerning Cross Endorsements

I write today in staunch opposition to the above-named bill. I ask you, our elected officials, to not act so as to limit the choices of the voters who put you into office. You are beneficiaries of the democratic process; please consider this as you consider hindering that very process.

Our political process, for better or worse, is a largely partisan process. It has come to be a fundamental part of this system that parties put forth candidates. This bill seeks to do what many have never imagined our government would attempt – to limit the right of a political party to endorse those candidates it chooses. Who would imagine that the government would seek to make it illegal for a party to put forth a candidate who is qualified for the office under all laws, who may in fact serve as the candidate of another party?

The American people are not blind. We know that too many of our elected officials represent, not the people, but their corporate paymasters. We know that too many come from only two parties, and that the members of those parties find this comfortable, and seek to prevent competition from upstarts, just as many corporations enjoy their privileges. We know the impulse behind this bill, and many like it. Having closed so many of the directions available to third parties to grow – banishing us from democratic debates, locking us out of media outlets – cross endorsement is one of the few opportunities left to many third parties struggling for a part in American democracy. Through cross-endorsement a party can give a nod to candidates from other parties it approves of, and gain the attention of like-minded voters who might otherwise not notice. This bill is an attack on this strategy, as part of a larger attempt to disenfranchise those who do not wish to partake in your duopoly.

This is not a partisan issue. Indeed, I am writing on my own, not as a representative of my party. The Libertarian Party of Connecticut, furthermore, does not often partake of cross-endorsements, preferring to run our own slate of candidates. My friend and copartisan Jim Palmer has searched electoral records dating back to 1988 and found only one cross-endorsed LP candidate. He did not investigate all local races, but I do not recall any local candidates who were cross-endorsed in that time frame. I am writing out of principle, not the interests of my party.

In closing, this bill is a strike against democracy, the system you are charged to defend. I ask you to do your duty, set self-interest aside, and vote down this bill.

In the interest of full disclosure, as a Libertarian I have been asked to accept the cross endorsement of the Republican party in November 2013 in a run for Planning, and have agreed to do so.

Sincerely,

Joshua Katz  
Secretary, Libertarian Party of CT  
Member, Zoning Board of Appeals, Westbrook, CT (L)