

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

Vote-by-mail has been an incredible tool to raise civic engagement in the people of Oregon; it benefits everyone, from those of us in the big city to residents of small, quiet, cozy little communities in the mountains or along the coast. Democracy is intended to be a system that represents the will of the people, but without the participation OF those people, it flails and falters. Through the use of vote-by-mail, that participation has been easier than ever, and the people's will is made manifest in our electoral system.

The only conceivable reason that anyone would want to take away this boon to the political life of Oregonians is a slavish, unthinking loyalty to the most regressive urges of the current climate. There is no valid excuse for attempting to wrest away this hard-won freedom to vote at one's leisure from the people of this great state except in the hopes that by making voting harder, fewer people will do it, and thus the will of the people will become quiet and easily manipulable by bad actors who wish to impose upon us the same wretched chains of oligarchy, bigotry and greed that are currently tightening around the federal government.

Vote-by-mail may not be a pure antidote to such fetters, but it is a means to continue fighting them off. Everyone I have ever met in this beautiful state has voted by mail for years, and would be enraged by any attempt to change that. Do not make this change; preserve the freedom and fairness of Oregon's elections. Help us stave off the rot currently afflicting the wider country's political body.