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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

I'm a mail carrier so this bill is especially abhorrent to me. Requiring in-person voting only and only on election day would be borderline catastrophic for eastern Oregonians. Many of them live 10, 20 or more miles away from town centers, libraries, etc., where polling places are/would be. This is further exacerbated by the lack of public transit in most parts of eastern Oregon.

Consider the logistical and financial nightmare of having 4.2 million people taking a day off to overwhelm polling booths. Does Senator David Brock Smith have a plan to run more polling facilities? The bill shows that it, "May Have Fiscal Impact, But No Statement Yet Issued." Oregon had the lowest Cost of Voting Index value in 2024 with universal mail-in ballots. Does Senator Smith have a plan to cover the additional cost to push us to the other end of the Index?

The simple fact that this disproportionately negatively affects eastern Oregonians means it also disproportionately negatively affects Republicans. While I'm not a supporter of most Republican policies, I strongly believe the right to vote applies to EVERYONE, and any attempt to restrict, limit, hinder or otherwise discourage ANYONE from voting is not only unconstitutional, but also un-American.

Oregon's vote by mail system has worked excellently for literal decades. It saves counties and states money. It is safe and encourages greater civic engagement. It is convenient for working parents, elderly, handicapped, college students, executives ... everyone!

I strongly oppose SB210 and hope you keep Oregon's mail-in voting system intact.