

March 29, 2025

Anthony Valley
Silverton, OR

RE: OR Senate Bill 210

I write to you today in OPPOSITION of this proposed legislation, which would replace Oregon's current and very successful Vote-By-Mail laws.

I believe that his proposed legislation is a solution in search of a virtual non-problem. While no voting system that handles over 2.3 million votes in a general election is perfect, there are few problems associated with Oregon's Vote-By-Mail system. It is a model that several other states both respect and emulate. It provides greater access to voting, which both increases participation and voter ownership in the results. People are more likely to feel heard if our elections are free and open.

These features enhance our representative democracy. This is a good thing.

By contrast, a system such as the one outlined in the proposed legislation would have the effect of diminishing voter turnout and participation, which seems anti-democracy. Moreover, laws are already in place that address various types of voter malfeasance, such as attempting to illegally cast a vote--an exceedingly rare occurrence. Applying the laws already on the books, rather than creating an entirely new set of laws to deal with a nearly non-existent problem, would seem the more prudent course.

Additionally, many communities provide safe and convenient Vote-By-Mail drop boxes. This providing additional ways to cast a ballot, again making voting both more free and open.

In reviewing the other documents that have been submitted here, I found this: At the time I counted (early evening, Saturday, March 29), there had been 2005 statements submitted by Oregon voters about this proposed legislation. They broke out as follows:

Neutral	3
Oppose	1370
Support	632

68% of Oregon voters who have taken the time to respond OPPOSE this proposed legislation. I believe the Legislature should take heed of that result.

Sincerely,
Anthony Valley
Silverton, OR