Submitter:                                        Angela Kalisiak

On Behalf Of:

Committee:                                 Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:        SB210

I am a 30+ year citizen of this state and a regular, faithful voter.

I am STRONGLY opposed to the disruption of the vote by mail system that has worked well in Oregon for so many years for the following reasons:

1. It is a system that promotes participation for every eligible voter, including those who work multiple jobs, those who have multiple small children at home and no childcare backup, those who are seniors (as I now am), those who are ill and disabled or caring for someone who is...and any other groups for whom in person voting poses burdens such as loss of wages. I am a retired physician; though I had none of the struggles I just enumerated, I did have an unpredictable workday serving very sick people: would I have voted every time if I had to wait in a line? Maybe not...

2. It is a system that encourages an informed and careful electorate. I spend multiple hours considering candidates, looking up candidate and ballot measure information with the help of my pamphlet, having conversations with friends with expertise in certain issues, etc. My vote does not take place in 10 minutes. It is a multi-day process at my kitchen table, and I am a better citizen for the time I invest. And I believe my community is better off for the time I and others spend researching local, down ballot candidates and issues.

3. It is an economical system. It does not require the closure of schools to create secure polling places (as it did in the cities I lived in before moving to Portland).

4. It is as private as I or any citizen wants to make it.

5. Election integrity safeguards have been excellent. Even the rare error of automatic registration by DMV was identified, made public, and rectified: with no evidence of consequence to election results. We should of course continue to strengthen audits and vigilance and not take our excellent system for granted, but this system is a model to be emulated, not rejected.