

Submitter:	Marina Menegol
On Behalf Of:	The Paper Trail
Committee:	Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB210

Dear Elected Officials,

I strongly oppose SB210, which would remove our right to vote by mail. I have been voting by mail since 1996, and have never run into problems with it. It gives voters time to read up on issues and candidates and make the decisions that are best for them. Some argue that vote-by-mail leads to voter fraud, but every single study on this issue has proven that to be untrue. On the contrary, voting machines can use outdated software and be susceptible to cyber-hacks. Electronic voting machines often don't provide a paper backup. Vote by mail provides a paper trail, a key advantage in preserving our voices under a democracy. Each mail-in ballot is a physical document that can be manually verified and audited, ensuring that intentions as voters are accurately captured and counted. If a machine malfunctions or is hacked, it is so much harder, sometimes impossible verify how votes were cast or ensure that they were counted accurately. A paper trail is an essential feature for election transparency and trust.

What's more, there are many people who cannot take time off of work to stand in long lines at the polls. There are families with small children, people who don't have access to reliable transportation, people who live far from polling locations. There has also been a fair amount of intimidation and coercion by other citizens at polling sites as our country becomes more and more divided. Eliminating vote by mail in Oregon would make it much, much harder for people to vote, which seems like it's the point behind this bill. We are paying close attention to those now in office who are trying to take away voters' rights under the thinly-veiled guise of "protecting" us. If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

Sincerely,
Marina Menegol