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On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

I strongly believe that Oregon's current vote by mail system should remain the standard way of voting in our state. Vote by mail makes it possible for any Oregon voter--no matter their work or life schedule, whether they live in a remote area, have limited transportation, or other barriers that would restrict their ability to make it to the polls--to participate. In addition to accessibility, vote by mail also makes it easier for people to vote more thoughtfully. Coming of age as a voter after vote by mail became our state's system, I've spent many hours with ballots over the years, researching measures and looking up people running for office. I believe having space and time with a ballot in hand is encouragement to everyone to reflect on their choices and make informed decisions.

Is the vote by mail system flawless? No. But the instances of fraud are very low. By transitioning to a primarily vote-in-person system to minimize already minimal amounts of fraud, we risk limiting voter participation. Giving all registered voters a chance to have their say--whether they are a busy stay-at-home mother, someone living in a rural area, or a person without reliable transportation--is critical to our democracy.