

Submitter:

Chris Bergsten

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

As an elected representative, Sen. Smith has the privilege to propose any bill he feels his constituents may approve of - and I have no doubt that he can find allies to show their support here and elsewhere. But just because someone is for a senseless, backward proposal doesn't mean that the rest of Oregon should seriously consider it.

Vote by mail (and later, the Motor Voter law) have made Oregon one of the top states in the nation for voter turnout and eliminated barriers to voting for working people, the poor, and rural residents, while still providing the necessary security to ensure that voting is fair, honest, and meaningful. We don't have to wonder if it will work; we already know it does.

Eliminating VBM when we have already seen that it's a superior system would be tantamount to voter suppression. There is no conceivable benefit to eliminating vote by mail that can be worth disenfranchising voters and thereby undermining the validity of our electoral results.

The various arguments that have already been made in favor of this proposal - claims of voter fraud, concern for the dissolution of the US Postal Service, "it's good enough for other states" and so on - are lies, ignorance, and fearmongering, which are not equal in value to truth and common sense. To allow this proposal to be blindly forwarded to the public despite its lack of merit would be an embarrassment for our state, and for this committee.