

Submitter:	Kristopher Agosto
On Behalf Of:	
Committee:	Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic:	SB210

Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 210

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kristopher Agosto, and I am a resident of Oregon. I'm writing to strongly oppose Senate Bill 210, which seeks to largely repeal Oregon's vote-by-mail system—a system that has served our state well for over two decades.

Vote-by-mail has made elections more accessible, secure, and convenient for countless Oregonians, especially those living in rural areas. Many of Oregon's rural voters—who often face long distances to polling places, poor weather conditions, or limited transportation options—depend on mail voting to ensure their voices are heard. Taking this away doesn't just make voting harder; it actively disenfranchises people who already face barriers to participation.

Nationally, data shows that rural voters benefit significantly from mail voting. In the 2020 general election, 47% of rural voters voted early, and nearly a quarter used mail ballots. In states that made mail voting easier, rural turnout was nearly 8% higher. These numbers show that mail voting isn't about partisan advantage—it's about participation.

Though I am a Republican, I oppose SB 210 because it would harm the very people in my party's base: rural Oregonians who need flexibility to vote. This bill would weaken our democracy by making it harder for people—Republicans, Democrats, and independents alike—to exercise their fundamental right to vote.

Please reject this measure. Protect our elections. Preserve vote-by-mail in Oregon.