I strongly oppose SB 210 as someone who lives in a rural area where it can be very difficult to have the time and transportation to vote in-person. Voting is a right and we should increase access and encourage civic participation rather than limit it. The Bipartisan Policy Center supports mail-in voting and agrees that is safe and secure: https://bipartisanpolicy.org/report/mail-voting-is-safe-secure/ This issue has been heavily partisan and layering on more and more voting requirements seeks to disenfranchise voters, who have barriers to in-person voting such as the elderly and those with disabilities. In-person voting requires having enough voting booths across districts and available at convenient times for those who work. Oregon is NOT a state that has made Election Day a public holiday and does NOT require employers to provide time off to vote. We need to make sure voting is transparent and accessible to voters. Layering on onerous voting requirements without the data to support any fraud or abuse for mail in voting is not in the best interests of voters in Oregon. Studies have shown that mail-in voting leads to higher voter turnout, especially among historically underrepresented groups.

A 2020 study from Stanford University found that universal mail-in voting increased voter participation by about 2 percentage points overall, with even greater gains in some demographics. Conducting elections primarily by mail can save money by reducing the need for staffing polling places, purchasing voting machines, and securing election sites. The Bipartisan Policy Center also found that states with widespread mail-in voting spent less per voter than those relying on traditional in-person voting. Mail-in ballots create a physical record, making audits and recounts easier and more reliable compared to electronic voting systems. A Brennan Center for Justice report highlighted that paper ballots (such as those used in mail-in voting) are a crucial safeguard against election interference. Multiple studies and reports, including from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the FBI, confirm that mail-in voting is secure. Cases of voter fraud remain extremely rare. The Heritage Foundation, which tracks voter fraud, found only a handful of documented cases of fraud related to mail-in ballots out of millions cast in recent elections.