

Submitter: John Galloway
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210
Oregon SB210

Perhaps I have not been paying sufficient attention to our legislature's deliberations of late, but this bill, championed by Senator David Brock Smith, strikes me as being one of the stupidest measures taking up valuable legislator time in recent memory.

I wonder whether Senator Smith, or indeed any of the bill's supporters actually canvassed a representative sample of their constituents before deciding to proceed. I note that Senator Smith hales from Port Orford, and serves a district encompassing parts of Curry, Coos, and Douglas counties; which I consider some of the most rural, sparsely populated lands in western Oregon. Given that, I doubt many of his constituents would relish returning to the now archaic practice of actually presenting themselves to a distant polling booth. Perhaps that is Mr. Smith's intent, but I digress.

Oregon's vote by mail works and works well. It does not need fixing. What does need fixing is Mr. Smith's obvious penchant for advancing the empty rhetoric of those who would reduce citizen involvement in the democratic process through any means available. If he and others who support such measures were to instead, advance measures that intend to help their district's citizens, they just might find their constituents more grateful.

John Galloway