

Submitter:

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On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I am submitting my personal testimony to oppose SB 210. I live in rural Oregon, and already, our rural citizens feel disconnected and disenfranchised from the urban centers.

I spoken with folks in my rural community who mistakenly feel that mail-in voting is working against them or it is a fraught with corruption and fraud (when questioned, they often cite the usual suspects from conservative news outlets and sources). First, I explain that the level of vote-by-mail fraud is extremely low (Brenner Center for Justice, Pew Research, Brookings Institute), and the current efforts to stop it are based control, power, xenophobia, and downright cruelty. Secondly, I ask them what they would have to do if they had to go to a location to vote. Do they have to secure care giving for children or loved ones? Do they have to take off work and risk either losing their job, wages, or vacation/personal time off? Do they really want to stand in line (some do, and they still can)? When we break it down in day to day terms, most of the folks I talk to seem to get it. Often they are swayed by others determined to limit people's rights to retain their own power and influence through fear and disinformation.

There is no reason to try to solve something that, based on data, is not a problem and could steal rights from our fellow citizens and further our already turbulent social and political climate. Vote NO on SB 210.