

Members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

As a proud, rural Oregonian, I strongly **OPPOSE** SB210.

We are blessed in Oregon with a commitment to engaging our citizens in the democratic process. Our vote by mail system ensures that everyone, even those who are limited by distance, disability, or a lack of transportation can have their voice heard. Taking that ability away disenfranchises everyone, especially those who are already suffering. As a resident of an unincorporated rural area located outside of a rural community on the east side of the Cascades, I am reminded daily of the exceptional effort required to have our needs heard and challenges met in this state. Voting is the **ONLY** time when my voice counts as much as the voices of those in Portland or Salem. Over 90% of the land in this state is rural.

Requiring people to make the extra, sometimes extraordinary, effort to travel long distances to physical polling places is anti-democratic and discriminatory. It is also expensive and impractical. With so many small, rural communities in Oregon, recruiting and paying poll workers will be difficult and expensive. If the choice in an area is to overburden existing County Clerks, the actual cost of additional staff as well as the opportunity cost of other work uncompleted will be significant.

There is **NO** evidence that vote by mail is unsecure or vulnerable to any kind of widespread fraud. There **IS** evidence that it increases voter turnout and voter engagement. This bill is a misguided, politically-motivated effort and should not be allowed to continue.

I respectfully urge you to **oppose** SB210 and consider the potential impact on rural, disabled, senior, and low-income voters in Oregon. It is crucial to ensure that the rights and ability to participate in the democratic process are preserved for all Oregonians.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Patti Norris

Rural Resident and Voter