

Submitter:

Ceilidh Kirk

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB210

I was born in 1992, and am amongst the final age-group of Oregonians old enough to have any memories of our parents voting at a polling station. That was nearly 30 years ago, and in a state with so much remote topography, vote-by-mail just works better logistically. In-person voting is a manpower and resources nightmare. It is costly in time, money, economic resources, staffing, and supply-chain logistics the State of Oregon can ill-afford at a time when federal funding for many things has been slashed. Vote-by-mail uses a logistics system that already exists! The United States Post Office service is reliable, low-cost, and mostly paid for by the Federal government. And given that my generation is now working in local and state elections offices and those who are old enough to remember setting up polling stations logistics are likely retired, too disabled to remember, or deceased, how would we even implement this? No one working in the elections offices now is old enough to remember how to do in-person polling; it makes more sense in both logistics and resources to keep using our current system, which saves time, resources, logistics, and is cheaper because of how the post office is funded. We simply cannot afford the money for such a logistical nightmare during a time of so many concurrent funding crises. And what about the small farmers in your community you claim to represent? Oregon is a deeply agricultural state. Without tourism and agriculture, our economy would not exist—and much of harvest-time in Oregon falls between May through November. Farmers can ill-afford time away from baling hay, cutting oats, or harvesting late-season berries and peaches—all extremely fragile and time-sensitive crops that are damaged by fall rainstorms if a farmer takes a single day off for anything, let alone standing in a stupid line. No farmer will take that much time away from their crops and animals. Are you really this committed to damaging Oregon and the small people you claim to represent? In defense of Oregon's economy, sound logistics, and plain common sense: I unequivocally and resoundingly reject, object, and oppose this bill. Vote-by-mail is the only common-sense solution for all of Oregon.