

Submitter: Becca Phelps
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Dear Committee Members,

As a rural Oregon voter in HD 55/SD28, I strongly oppose SB 210 because it threatens to dismantle the very system that has made voting accessible, secure, and efficient in our state for decades. Oregon's vote-by-mail system works—it ensures that every eligible voter, no matter where they live, can cast their ballot without unnecessary barriers. I've spent many election cycles working on campaigns and I know first-hand that rural voters who have had their doors knocked on by a candidate for the first time ever truly appreciate the opportunity to sit at their kitchen tables with friends and/or family to discuss the candidates and measures on their ballots.

For those of us in rural areas, vote-by-mail isn't just a convenience—it's a necessity. Many of us live miles away from the nearest polling place, and requiring in-person voting on Election Day would make it harder for working families, seniors, and people with disabilities to exercise their fundamental right to vote. Our current system is safe, transparent, and highly effective, with built-in security measures like signature verification that protect against fraud. Although we had a major problem with unregistered voters being able to vote last election cycle, all parties were able to work toward solutions in a collaborative manner that strengthened our voting system.

SB 210 is a step backward. It would make it harder for Oregonians to participate in democracy and create unnecessary hurdles in a system that has been working exceptionally well. I urge our lawmakers to reject this bill and stand up for the voting rights of all Oregonians—especially those of us in rural communities who rely on vote-by-mail to have our voices heard.

Vote-by-mail has served Oregon well for decades. Let's keep it that way.

Thank you,
Becca Phelps