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On Behalf Of:
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Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

Higher voter turnout has never been labeled a bad thing by anyone whose intent is to strengthen democracy. To this end, the lesser the roadblocks to taking part in democratic elections, the better. The statistics are clear: 61% of eligible voters, on average, take part in voting; in 2000, roughly 80% of all eligible voters participated in that year's Presidential election, a stark contrast from the 71% turnout of 1996. Vote-by-mail has allowed Oregon to include many who otherwise may be left out of the democratic process - the sick, elderly, and otherwise unfit, unable or unwilling to stand in long lines at polling stations that become fewer and fewer every election cycle, as we have seen happen innumerable times across the nation.

To lessen Oregonians' access to free and fair elections would equate to nothing short of voter suppression on a mass scale, and Oregon should hold itself to a higher standard. We have done so since 1998, to great effect. We have a track record that can be proven and any attempt to take it away ought be opposed.