

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, and members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

Oregon's vote-by-mail system is a model for the country. Every state should have a similar system!

Voting by mail makes it easy for every eligible citizen to cast their vote. That is what our democracy should strive for, everywhere. Now it is even free in Oregon to put your un-stamped ballot in the mail. But if you like to turn it in in person, you can go to a library or other drop site to do so. And if you prefer to vote in person, you can do it at an elections office. Under Oregon's system, we have plenty of time to study the voter pamphlet at home and discuss the candidates with family or friends while filling out the ballot.

There has been very little voter fraud in our country, whether at polling places or via mail-in ballots. There are safeguards in both categories. Oregon's vote-by-mail system increases voter "turnout", particularly helping people with disabilities, the elderly, rural voters, citizens with language issues, and those who would have prohibitive work schedules on election day. What is there not to like about universal vote-by-mail?

I seriously question why the sponsors of SB 210 want to challenge a system that is working well in our state. Please oppose this misguided bill.