



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Wallan, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

As the legislature considers ways to rebuild and strengthen public trust in government, I believe SB913 is a meaningful step in that direction. This bill corrects a longstanding inconsistency in our justice system by removing the provision that excludes residents of a county seat from voting for the Justice of the Peace and from serving on juries—despite being under the jurisdiction of the Justice Court.

It defies logic and fairness that someone accused of a crime in Salem could be tried in a Justice Court and judged by a jury composed entirely of residents from cities like Silverton or Stayton. These individuals may not share the same community experiences or demographic makeup as the accused. That disconnect erodes the fundamental right to be judged by a jury of one's peers and contributes to a perception of injustice.

By allowing all residents subject to the court's jurisdiction to fully participate in its democratic processes, SB913 strengthens the legitimacy of our local justice system. It enhances fairness, accountability, and trust.

I urge your support for SB913. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,