

Good morning Co-chairs Lively and Moore-Green,

I have previously been interviewed at length regarding former Rep. Diego Hernandez's claim. I expect that the information has been provided in the report or in supplementary materials on the matter. Please accept that interview and this letter as testimony. It may be read into the record as I am unable to attend in person.

If for some reason that information was lost or omitted, I feel comfortable asserting that our system has failed us. (There may be others who have been interviewed and whose information was not presented.) It would tell me that we are just another workplace that must continue to refine our processes. We have failed in our aspirations to create a productive lawmaking environment centered on democracy and inclusion. Nevertheless, we are still tasked with refining a system that will ultimately serve the people and not our exclusive political interests.

What concerns me most about this case and this process is that we all know that "justice delayed is justice denied." I do not know what merits Mr. Hernandez will argue today. However, based on the timeline alone, I believe this hearing will be closed before it is opened.

I am uncomfortable passing down a system to future lawmakers that stamps the length of time to bring this to the committee for review as acceptable. We are lawmakers who live in this state and serve consistently. We are not hard to find, nor impossible to schedule. I also do not know how much we have paid for this case, but I question if we have gotten a fair value for the people's tax dollars. As the past chair of the House Judiciary Committee, I believe surely there is a better way to administer justice.

Thank you for your service and your willingness to serve in this capacity. I respect you both immensely and trust your judgment.

*Janelle S. Bynum*

Oregon State Representative, House District 51

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