

June 9th, 2021

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House Special Committee on December 21, 2020

Honorable Members of the Committee,

I strongly urge the members of the House Special Committee on December 21, 2020, to support HR 3 and move to expel Rep. Nearman from office.

Rep Nearman conspired with members of extremist groups to breach Capitol security and stop the Oregon Sate Legislature from performing its duties. As reported in the *Washington Post* by Hannah Knowles and Nick Parker on June 7:

Speaking in front of a projected computer screen in the video, Nearman (R) encourages his audience to get engaged and says you can “take as big a bite or as small a bite as you want.”

The Oregon Capitol is closed amid the coronavirus pandemic, “so you can’t come in,” the Republican legislator from rural Polk County acknowledges in a newly publicized and recently restricted video of a meeting that apparently took place in mid-December. But then he drops hints about something called “Operation Hall Pass.”

“Which I don’t know anything about, and if you accuse me of knowing something about it, I’ll deny it,” he says in the video.

He gives a phone number – “just random numbers that I spewed out” – and says that if people were to text it with their location, somebody might exit through the right door at the right moment. On Dec. 21, according to previously released surveillance video, Nearman did just that.

Nearman was charged in that incident with “knowingly” letting far-right rioters breach the Oregon Capitol as lawmakers met to consider coronavirus legislation – weeks before Trump supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol and after armed protests outside statehouses across the country had raised concerns about lawmaker safety.

Mike Nearman’s words and deeds put him in a group that is part of the white supremacist insurrection currently threatening both Oregon and the United States itself. When a member of the Legislature conspires with extremist elements to put fellow Legislators in mortal danger, simple expulsion is far from sufficient, but absolute necessary. I strongly support the passage of HR 3.

Thank you for your service and for your commitment to the issue of safety and justice.

Truly,
Robert Gonzalez