

To: Chair Holvey and Members of the House Special Committee On December 21, 2020  
CC: Rep Daniel Bonham, House Republican Leader Christin Drazan, Rep. Andrea Salinas,  
House Democratic Leader Barbara Smith Warner, Rep. Duane Stark

I am writing in support of Rep. Mike Nearman and strongly oppose HR 3.

Mike Nearman for years has shown himself knowledgeable in and passionate about the Constitution of the United States and the Oregon Constitution. He has been elected by large majorities in his district because he also cares deeply about the citizens of Oregon and works hard for them. He has much more integrity than those who are considering his expulsion.

I thought I had seen it all before I moved to Oregon from Rochester, New York. The politics, corruption, double dealing, double standards and hypocrisy in New York State are all well known, but the actions of this legislature surpasses even New York. Not even there did the Republicans eat their own the way they do in Oregon. And this supermajority is showing the truth of "Absolute power corrupts absolutely", displaying bullying, tyranny and oppression, putting your thumb on those who have the courage to disagree with you.

May I point out the hypocrisy of allowing a staff member who works for Speaker Kotek not being held to any accountability for her violent actions when rioting in Portland, leading to her arrest? She was protected. And now Mike Nearman, who committed no crime but opening a door to leave the Capitol building, is to be expelled? This is beyond wrong! Especially when the Oregon Constitution states that when the Legislature is in session, the people of Oregon are to have access to their legislators and the ability to speak their mind in person and have dialog. You yourselves have broken the Oregon Constitution, keeping the citizens blocked from those who are supposed to serve them. No wonder citizens took advantage of an open, unguarded door in order to get into the seat of government that has been blocking them over a year.

Republicans, get a backbone. Stand in support of your colleague. You already have betrayed the citizens by allowing many of our rights to be trampled. I'm sure your districts needed the money you brought to them by your negotiations, but have the courage to stand in support of a hard-working, highly principled colleague. Elections will be coming up in two years and the voters will remember the choices you make.

Please vote NO on HR 3.

Sincerely,

Elaine Woods  
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