

To: Members of House Special Committee on December 21, 2020
From: Deborah Ferrer, The Dalles, OR
Date: June 10, 2021
Re: Expulsion of Representative Mike Nearman

Chair Holvey and Members of the House Special Committee,

I urge you to take actions today to expel Representative Mike Nearman for his role in allowing protestors into the state capitol building in December, by supporting HR3. It is one thing for a legislator to disagree with a governor's order, but it is quite another thing for him to take matters into his own hands and commit an illegal act to deliberately break that order. We elect our legislators to make laws, not break them.

There is now more than ample evidence that Rep Nearman not only deliberately allowed protestors into the building, but that he planned with the protestors in advance as to how he would let them in. The video that surfaced last Friday in which he was clearly giving instructions to the protestors was truly disturbing. Such action cannot be ignored. He cannot be trusted to put the safety of his colleagues ahead of his own political ideology. He does not deserve to be in office.

We are fortunate that the events of December 21 in Salem did not unfold to be as serious as the events of January 6 at our nation's capitol, but it doesn't take a lot of imagination to recognize that they could have. This is not a partisan issue. This is a simple matter of an individual legislator breaking the law and putting others at risk. No matter your political party, you must make a clear statement that the Oregon Legislature cannot tolerate such actions. You must expel Mike Nearman.

Sincerely,

Deborah Ferrer