



## Service Employees International Union Local 503

*72,000 public services workers, care providers, and non-profit employees in Oregon.*

**To:** House Special Committee on December 21, 2020

**On:** June 10, 2021

**Re:** House Resolution 3

Chair Holvey, members of the House Special Committee on December 21:

My name is Mike Powers, I use he/him pronouns, and I am the President of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 503. SEIU represents 85,000 workers in Oregon and SW Washington, and has 2 million members nation-wide. Our members include janitors, health care workers, care providers, public workers, and more. We wish to express strong support for House Resolution 3.

Article IV, Section 15 of the Oregon Constitution provides the Legislature with a clear path and responsibility to expel any member who engages in disorderly conduct. Rep. Nearman's premeditated actions were dangerous, shameful, and clearly met the definition of "disorderly conduct." He must be expelled from the Oregon House of Representatives immediately.

As Oregon's largest labor union, we would be remiss to not point out that the event that was made possible by Rep. Nearman's actions was a workplace safety issue. By coordinating with armed, violent extremists and opening the doors to our Capitol to them, Rep. Nearman is directly responsible for injuries sustained by Oregon State Police on Dec. 21. He further jeopardized the safety of legislators, Capitol staff, and journalists, particularly people of color.

Rep. Nearman's orchestrated attack on the Oregon Capitol was a chilling precursor to the assault on our nation's Capitol on January 6th and threatened the very core of our democratic institutions. Honoring the sanctity of our center of government should not be a partisan issue, and it was heartening to see broad, bipartisan calls for Rep. Nearman to resign. Any lawmaker - regardless of party - who colludes with violent extremists should lose their privilege to serve.

The Legislature needs to take strong, immediate action and send a clear message to those who would violate our laws and collude with extremists. Today, the Special Committee can set a standard for the future conduct of our Legislature and our values as Oregonians. Rep. Nearman must be expelled from the Oregon House of Representatives, immediately.

Sincerely,

Mike Powers  
President  
SEIU Local 503, OPEU