



To: Rep. Holvey, Chair
Members of the House Special Committee On December 21, 2020

From: Lindsey Scholten, Oregon League of Conservation Voters

Date: June 10, 2021

For the record my name is Lindsey Scholten and I am the deputy director for the Oregon League of Conservation Voters. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Resolution 3.

The Oregon League of Conservation Voters or “OLCV” is a nonpartisan organization with thousands of members across the state. For almost 50 years, OLCV has worked to ensure our elected leaders and our state’s environmental policies represent and reflect the strong environmental values held by the people of Oregon. We engage our members in voter outreach during elections, advocate for policies that protect our natural legacy and our democracy, and work to hold all elected officials accountable.

Thank you for holding this House Special Committee on December 21, 2020, to seriously deliberate ramifications for Rep. Mike Nearman’s dangerous and premediated actions. Without question, Rep. Nearman’s actions late last year meet and exceed the definition of disorderly behavior as given in Article IV, section 15, of the Oregon Constitution. Therefore, without question, he must be immediately expelled by the Oregon House of Representatives.

As revealed by security footage, media investigations, and his own admissions, Rep. Nearman planned and executed what he called “Operation Hall Pass,” which was a coordinated action that let armed, violent attackers through the doors of our state capitol when it was closed due to COVID precautions. Law enforcement officers were injured by the armed attackers. Those authorized to be in the Capitol described the attack as “terrifying” and “distressing.”

Legislators have a responsibility to ensure the safety of those who work in the Capitol, especially BIPOC staff who are most vulnerable to attack from racist mobs. As long as Rep. Nearman remains in office, there is no assurance that the Capitol is safe for those who work there or visit. Legislators are given the power to expel a member from their chamber for exactly these circumstances.

This is not a partisan issue. We appreciate that the House Republican Caucus put out a statement calling for a member of their own caucus to resign. [The Oregonian Editorial Board weighed in calling for Rep. Nearman to resign or be expelled.](#) The public is calling for Rep. Nearman to be expelled. Over 1,500 OLCV members have emailed their state representative

asking for him to be expelled. Thousands of others from different parts of the state, even from Rep. Nearman's district, people with different backgrounds and political views have called for his expulsion.

Please don't wait to do the right thing. Any lawmaker – regardless of party – who colludes with those who would break the law and who puts the safety of people at risk should lose their right to serve.

Please move swiftly to expel Rep. Mike Nearman from the Oregon Legislature.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to submit testimony on this critical issue.