



June 10, 2021

Representative Holvey, Chair
Members of the House Special Committee on December 21
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

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

The Renew Oregon coalition supports HR 3, finding that Representative Mike Nearman was egregiously disorderly in violation of the Oregon Constitution and further we support his immediate expulsion by a vote of the Oregon House of Representatives.

As an advocacy coalition with members, staff, and volunteers, some of them children, who frequently visit the Capitol when it is safely open, we find what Representative Nearman did dangerous, shameful, and inexcusable. His actions and continued presence in the Capitol endanger the safety, and even the lives of people who frequent the Capitol to participate in our democratic process, as well as those who work there. Some professionals willingly put themselves in danger to help people, but serving the people of Oregon in the Capitol offices should not be life-threatening.

As a result of Rep. Nearman's disorderly conduct, violent far-right extremists - armed with long guns, pitchforks, and bear mace - attacked law enforcement officers who were attempting to protect legislators, staff and the Capitol itself. The attack resulted in injuries to police, arrests of attackers, and the terrorizing of capitol employees, lawmakers, legislative staff, and others.

After Rep. Nearman let the mob in, the Oregon State Police were able to hold the line and the attackers were not able to breach the Senate and House chambers. That same day, the same group attacked journalists on the scene and attempted to illegally break into the building.

It would be shameful enough and worthy of expulsion for Rep. Nearman to endanger people and the democratic process capriciously, but the video evidence clearly shows him conspiring to carry out this attack days before and with full knowledge of what would happen. This is nothing less than an attack on the state of Oregon and our democratically elected government, with the intent of keeping it from conducting its constitutional duty-- an armed insurrection just as we witnessed-- horrified-- in Washington D.C. on January 6th.

Passage of HR 3 should not be a partisan issue and we appreciate that members of both caucuses have called on Rep. Nearman to resign or be expelled. Any lawmaker - regardless of party - who colludes with those who would attack our democracy and put the safety of people at risk - should lose their right to serve.

Sincerely,

Brad Reed
Campaign Manager
[Renew Oregon](#)

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[Renew Oregon](#) is a clean energy advocacy [coalition](#) of businesses and workers, healthcare professionals and parents, farmers and ranchers, faith and community organizations, and individuals coming together to move our state away from polluting energy to a clean energy economy. We are working to create good-paying jobs for all Oregonians, protect air and water from pollution, and help families stay healthy.