



Testimony in Support of HR 3
Testimony of Danita Harris
Interim State Director
Oregon Working Families Party

Chair Holvey and members of the committee,

My name is Danita Harris, and I am with the Oregon Working Families Party. The Oregon Working Families Party represents thousands of Oregonians across the state, and fights for an economy and a democracy that works for all of us. On behalf of the Oregon Working Families Party, I urge you to vote yes on HR 3 and proceed with the expulsion of Rep. Mike Nearman.

The public now has video evidence showing without a doubt that Rep. Nearman planned the breach of the Oregon Capitol, encouraging participation and providing step-by-step details on how he would participate. His weak attempts at creating plausible deniability during the Dec. 16th video make it clear he knew this plan was illegal. Rep. Nearman has long-held ties to white supremacist groups and right-wing militias, has even employed members of right-wing militias. Rep. Nearman was working with a group of people who were antagonistic and outright threatening in their emails, their chants, and the planning of this premeditated attack on the state capitol. There is no question, he knew exactly what he was doing on Dec. 21st.

Oregon has taken critical and necessary steps to strengthen our democracy during a time where it is under attack across the nation. Our state has worked hard to become more representative of our constituencies and work toward ensuring everyone has a voice. This premeditated attack on the Capitol was an attack on our democracy. Despite this, Nearman has continued organizing with groups tied to the Capitol breach and the Jan. 6th insurrection.

The legislature's independent investigation had already concluded that Nearman had "more likely than not" intended to allow unlawful entry into the Capitol. Nearman's wantonly actions clearly met the definition of disorderly conduct set forth in Oregon's constitution. This is not a partisan issue - the entire Republican House Caucus has joined the call for his resignation. Rep. Nearman put our democracy in danger and threatened lawmakers and Capitol staff in doing so. In the face of his continued refusal to resign, the legislature has a duty to remove him from office.