

Chair Holvey and members of the committee -

I'm a resident of House District 23 calling for Representative Nearman's expulsion.

I have called on Rep. Nearman to resign since news of his actions broke, but I believe he has made it clear he has no intention of doing so. Nearman endangered lawmakers and Capitol staff. He was caught on video letting armed protesters into the Capitol, and now we have video evidence that he'd been planning to do so at least 5 days in advance. He must be held accountable.

For years, Rep. Nearman has had ties to right-wing militias and in the past employed a known member of the Three Percenter militia. Yamhill Commissioner Casey Kulla has pointed out that in the week before Dec. 21st, lawmakers received emails from the right-wing group People's Rights Network about the protest, full of phrases like "frontier justice" and "awash with blood." Given his familiarity with right-wing militias, I believe it's probable Rep. Nearman knew that opening that door would likely result in violence, and planned for it anyway.

Members of these groups have been arrested for their involvement in both the Oregon Capitol breach and Jan. 6 insurrection. Even before that, these groups engaged in hate crimes, white supremacist rhetoric and domestic terrorism. Earlier today, Minority Leader Drazan told OPB "there could have easily been a death" as a result of Rep. Nearman's plan. Despite this, I've continued to hear members of the legislature say that expulsion is the wrong course of action. If this is not the time to expel a member of the legislature, when will it ever be?

Since the 21st, Rep. Nearman has never shown any remorse for the danger he put the Capitol in and has continued to associate with Proud Boys and Three Percenters. This is unacceptable conduct from an elected official. He has continued to organize with white supremacists and insurrectionists, which is a clear breach of public trust. Rep. Nearman has been stripped of his committee assignments, has voted "no" or excused himself on almost every bill coming through the House, and no longer effectively represents his constituents. He has demonstrated a fundamental disregard for democracy that makes him completely unfit to hold office. I believe the Oregon legislature has a duty to hold its members accountable. I urge you to vote "yes" on HR 3 and remove Mike Nearman from the legislature.