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On Behalf Of:  
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Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB210

"As an Oregon resident, I've watched our vote-by-mail system operate for years, and I'm convinced it needs to end. While it's pitched as convenient and accessible, the reality is that it opens the door to fraud and corruption in ways we can't ignore. When ballots are mailed out en masse to every registered voter, there's no guarantee they're going to the right person—or that they're even filled out by the voter themselves. I've heard too many stories of people moving out of state, passing away, or even voting in multiple places, yet their names still linger on our rolls, ripe for exploitation.

Take the 2016 election, for instance. Cases like Jeremy Robbins and Michael Cruz in Portland, who voted in both Oregon and Washington, or Katie Meyer, who cast ballots in Oregon and Colorado, show how easy it is to double-dip across state lines. These aren't isolated flukes—over a 19-year period, Oregon recorded 38 convictions for voter fraud out of 60.9 million ballots. That's a tiny fraction, sure, but it's still proof the system isn't airtight. And those are just the ones who got caught. How many more slip through because we rely on a flimsy signature check as our main safeguard? Anyone with a steady hand could forge that.

Then there's the corruption angle. In 2018, a political action committee called Defend Oregon collected ballots door-to-door, promising to deliver them, only to drop off nearly 100 too late to be counted. That's not just incompetence—it's a betrayal of trust that disenfranchised voters. Who's to say similar groups couldn't tamper with or dump ballots to sway a close race? Without in-person oversight, we're gambling on honesty in a system that's too vulnerable to manipulation.

I'm not saying everyone's out to cheat, but why leave the door cracked open? Vote-by-mail might have made sense decades ago, but today, with cleaner technology and better ways to verify voters, we can do better. I want elections I can trust—ones where I know every vote is legit, not just hope it is. Ending vote-by-mail in Oregon isn't about making voting harder; it's about making it honest. We deserve that."