



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 11, 2021

Timothy G. Sekerak
Chief Clerk of the House
State Capitol Building, H271
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Vote Explanation on the House Rules of the 81st Legislative Assembly

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

Please accept this vote explanation regarding my 'no' vote on the House Rules. My objections are not meant to imply criticism of any member of the leadership personally or of anyone who participated in the Rules discussion. I support the Speaker and appreciate the Speaker Pro Tem's work on these Rules. My objections to them relate more to how they need to change to accommodate a growing, diverse Oregon by allocating power more broadly to ensure we represent the viewpoints of all Oregonians. In particular -

1. The proposed Rules appear to allow the complete closure of the Capitol Building. I believe a wiser path, consistent with the Oregon Constitution, would be to allow access to floor debates and votes by a lottery, with the number of observers permitted to be determined by the current public health situation and building capacity.
2. The Speaker's authority to reassign members from committees without limitation invites abuse. I believe that a requirement of cause for removal of a member, with the requirement of a written explanation, would be more appropriate.
3. The Rules continue to allow for the exclusion of member bills from Special Sessions and limitations on the number of bills introduced in the 2022 Regular Session. As I expressed during the Second Special Session, I believe this prevents the exercise of the constitutional duties of a legislator.

In 26 years of military service, I have seen the problems caused by centralized control. Without sufficient room for diverse viewpoints, the plans and policies developed will only reflect the needs of those privileged voices 'in the room'. As Oregon becomes more populous and diverse, we must examine the ways in which 'the way we've always done things' must change to address the needs of all Oregonians.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marshall Z. Wilde". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marty Wilde, State Representative, District 11