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To the Joint Interim Committee on the First Special Session of 2020

Dear Chairs Courtney and Koteck, Vice-Chairs Girod and Drazen, and Committee Members,

Open Oregon is a 501(c)3 corporation dedicated to education and advocacy on Oregon's public records and public meetings law. Our members include requestors of public records (journalists, attorneys, members of the public) and responders to public records requests (government officials).

We write in support of [LC 84](#), specifically Section 1(1), which permits virtual public meetings, with virtual public participation during the COVID-19 pandemic, and Section (1b) which requires the recording of such meetings and making that recording public, when the technology used for virtual participation allows recording.

We note a possible oversight: Section 1 (1b) is silent on a method or timeframe by which recording be shared with the public. Clarity is helpful in public records law.

Since LC 84 rightly attempts to maximize opportunities for public participation even during the COVID-19 pandemic, we suggest that lawmakers add "promptly" or provide a specific timeframe, such as 24 hours, after "available to the public" in Section 1 (1b).

Prompt sharing expands the opportunity for public participation. If a person cannot watch a meeting live, they can still meaningfully participate if they can observe within a short period of time, for example before policies discussed are finalized.

We commend Oregon lawmakers for adding this forward-thinking provision to emergency legislation. We note that virtual-only meetings do create barriers for people without access to technology, as do in-person only meetings, including barriers of time and travel.

Recognizing the value of multiple methods for public participation in governance may be one of the silver linings of the COVID-19 stormcloud.

Thank you for providing the opportunity for public debate on this proposal.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shasta Kearns Moore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Shasta" being the most prominent.

Shasta Kearns Moore
Acting President, Open Oregon
A National Freedom of Information Coalition chapter

cc: Open Oregon Board
Therese Bottomly, Treasurer
Duane Bosworth
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Emily Harris
Mary Beth Herkert
Lisa Phipps
Norman Turrill
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