

I am a 71 year old Portland resident. I grew up in Nyssa, Oregon. Went to OSU and after graduation, the job I was working in Corvallis moved to Portland. I came along. I have seen a many instances of private company and government agency process that limits the ability of individuals to provide input. Don't get me wrong. My age shows I am well aware of how many more avenues citizens have for input on especially law making. But the ability to provide input before the pandemic was already taking place across Oregon and the country, so it just makes common sense to continue it to the extent possible. I know it may be more difficult for smaller communities (financially), but making an honest effort to allow people to let their feelings be known about many issues is important for democracy. I saw first hand how distance input could have important input when I was on Grand Jury duty for Mult. Co. in the spring of 2019. It help us (jury) make informed decisions as well as those who could not manage to make it to the courthouse...testify under oath. An example of why this access might be very important in just one case I heard is an elderly woman testified via internet about her car she took such good care of. It was stolen. Eventually recovered by police, but not just trashed, towed and this poor woman did not even have the funds to get her car out... much less have it repaired. I have no idea how the court case for the defendants turned out, but her ability to testify would have not taken place without "options" like this. Please help people have a voice that can be heard in their life, weather it is about crime, sewers, global warming or population density/livability. Thanks so much for this opportunity to be heard. ron strasser /artist, bicycle racer/rider and retired school custodian.