

Members of the House Committee on Rules:

I want to express my support for HB 2560. Remote access to public hearings and meetings is an equalizer, as the in-person only nature of many meetings excludes a large swath of Oregonians. Additionally, equitable access to meetings is especially important for disabled individuals, those who live far from their county seat, who do not or cannot drive, or who have family or school obligations that prevent them from coming in person, to name a few.

As a planner, Oregon's Statewide Land Use Planning Goal 1: Citizen Involvement is the foundation of public engagement and calls for the opportunity for the public to be engaged in all phases of the planning process. This bill furthers this opportunity by expanding public engagement to more Oregonians, who may have not had the ability to participate before COVID.

Thank you,

Lydia Ness