

Testimony in favor of HB 2560

As chair of Community Participation Organization 1 (Cedar Mill, Cedar Hills, Bonny Slope in unincorporated Washington County, CPO 1) I strongly support this legislation.

Ever since we began holding our CPO 1 meetings on Zoom, we have had much better attendance, with a wider representation of our community.

We actually began video recordings of our meetings a couple of years ago so we could "simulcast" them live on Facebook, because we knew that there were many people who were interested in participating who found the effort of coming out to a public space--perhaps getting a babysitter, giving up dinner, braving the weather etc.--a burden except in cases of very strong desire to participate.

I am also co-chair of the leadership group for the CPO system, Committee for Community Involvement (CCI) but I can't testify on behalf of that group without taking a vote. However, we have been having our meetings on zoom since last March and again, we've seen a large increase in participation.

We have formed a CCI subcommittee to work on communication issues. As CPO leaders, a big part of our job is to get information about the government out to our constituents. Being able to reach more people with our meetings, both live and recorded, is key to the success of that effort.

In addition to making meetings more convenient, I feel that the electronic meeting format encourages attendance from a more diverse group who might not feel comfortable in a room with strangers.

Please pass this bill out of committee so we can get the word out to all our members to support it!