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**To:** Linda de Boer <[deboer503@icloud.com](mailto:deboer503@icloud.com)>

**Subject:** HB 2560 testimony for 3/4/21

Testimony for HB 2560, Equitable Access to Civic Engagement  
For House Committee on Rules, March 4, 2021

Testimony from:

Linda de Boer  
Hillsboro, OR

March 3, 2021

Dear Representatives:

We Oregonians have an opportunity with HB 2560, to reinforce and emphasize values that are a special part of our history. The year of 2020, continuing into 2021, was one of turmoil. One of the lessons apparent to me is that each citizen needs to avail himself/herself of information as close to the source as possible. With informed minds, we need to engage and be involved.

As a seventy-two-year-old Oregon Democrat, I enjoy the irony that I have political heroes who were Republicans. In the early 1970's, it was inspiring to observe Oregon citizens work to create what became Senate Bill 100. They did so with the strong support of Republican Governor Tom McCall. My involvement in Oregon policy began about the same time when I teamed up with Nancy Ryles' grassroots effort to mandate public kindergartens in our state. Ryles was later elected as a Republican representative (then senator), and her kindergarten bill passed in the early eighties. Ryles said she built upon the roots of Democrat Betty Roberts. Both of these examples involved strong community support and involvement, and bipartisan cooperation which remain important to Oregonians. In fact Goal One of Senate Bill 100 is all about community involvement in land use planning. That should be Goal One for all on the agenda of the State.

Education and land use planning have continued to be of great importance to me as an Oregonian. I have travelled to Salem to provide testimony, but I admit, it becomes a little more difficult as I age. I believe that we have an opportunity with HB 2560, to take something positive from the changes necessitated by the pandemic. We now have technology that was not available nearly fifty years ago when my involvement began. I would like to be able to use that technology to enable myself and other Oregon residents to use their voices. Please support HB 2560 in our wonderful tradition of bipartisanship, and help secure the precious involvement of each Oregonian.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to Oregon.

Sincerely,  
Linda de Boer