

Senate Committee on Rules
HB 2560

Chair and Committee Members,

As a long time rural resident of Polk County I think HB 2560 is a fantastic idea. For more people than one might think, particularly rural residents, public participation at meetings can be difficult or impossible for many reasons. Some of us don't feel entirely safe driving at night, some do not have ready access to a car or do not drive, My sister can run a household and a farm but is legally blind so no driving. Some have obligations that keep them at home but can tune in to zoom meetings to know what is going on in their state and community. This is most important of all probably for citizens who live in remote areas of the state and do not have access to the state centers of power that those of us in the Willamette Valley do.

Electronic access to public meetings is a great, inclusive step forward for our participatory democracy. I urge you to pass HB 2560 unanimously as a testimony to the fact that democracy is alive and well in Oregon.

Sincerely,
Sarah Deumling