

I'm a resident of Hood River County, and am writing to express my strong support of HB 2560. The bill will make permanent the current COVID-related emergency/temporary requirement that local governments provide a remote access option for local public hearings and meetings. This has been a necessity during Covid, but we need it all the time.

Accessing local hearings and meetings always been an issue in rural areas of the state. The County seat, and even City Hall, are in many areas too far to travel to attend a meeting or hearing, or the weather might be too bad, or people with family obligations may not be able to get away at all.

The ability to "attend" electronically will allow many more people to participate in the important local government decisions that affect their lives. And it's now so easy and the local governments have already got their systems set up. In fact, local governments should be required to make recordings of their meetings and hearings available on their websites.

I encourage you to vote yes on HB 2560 so that all citizens who want to participate in local government can do so by remote access.