

April 26, 2021



Oregon Progressive Party Independent Party of Oregon

Position on Bills at 2021 Session of Oregon Legislature:

Dear Committee: **HB 2560: Support**

The Independent Party of Oregon and Oregon Progressive Party support this bill, which would requires all meetings held by a governing body of a public body, excluding executive sessions, to reasonably provide opportunity for members of the general public to access and attend the meeting by telephone, video, or other electronic or virtual means. Where in-person oral or written testimony is allowed, the body must allow oral testimony by telephone, video, or other electronic or virtual means and written testimony by electronic mail or other electronic means. These requirements would not apply to contested case hearings under the Administrative Procedures Act, which are quasi-judicial proceedings.

The past year has shown that government bodies can allow effective public participation by means of telephone and internet. Requiring such access to continue will bolster democracy and reduce the release of global warming gases due to reduced use of vehicles.

Oregon Progressive Party

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