

# Friends of French Prairie

Friends of French Prairie  
is an Oregon non-profit corporation

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April 26, 2021

To: Senate Committee on Rules

Re: Support HB 2560A Remote Access Bill

We strongly urge support of this bill to require local governments to continue to provide remote access to all public meetings beyond the COVID-19 temporary adjustment. Oregon is a large state with many large counties, and the requirement for physical presence at public meetings poses challenges to many who desire to participate in government decision making.

We acknowledge that it is not a replacement for in-person testimony, but should be seen in a both/and way, that support citizens who may have physical or economic challenges. Thus, for many people, it is the *only* way they can participate or even just watch what their local government is doing.

Marion County has done a very good job on providing remote access which has meant that many more residents are actually participating in civic life. We strongly urge support of this bill to involve more citizens in their government.

Sincerely

Benjamin D Williams

Friends of French Prairie