

I am writing to support HB2617. The purpose of the proposed bill is to allow owners in planned developments or condominiums to be able to record open association meetings.

As a member of such a planned community I believe there is no down side to adopting this bill. As the meetings are open, there are no privacy issues at play. Everyone present is well aware that they are speaking in a public forum and their words may already be recorded in written minutes. In a digital world, there should be no hesitation to allow twenty-first century methods of recording public meetings.

Further, it has been noted that the presence of audio or video recording equipment can have a calming effect. People are more likely to act responsibly and speak in a more civil manner if they are aware that their interactions may be recorded on audio or video tape. I personally witnessed a marked increase in civil speech and behavior when I began video recording public association meetings. The governing board later voted to ban video recording, imposing a stiff penalty for violations. Civil discourse eroded once again after the video ban.

Please support HB2617. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Michele Sparr
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