

Dear House Committee on Rules members,

I support HB 2560 as someone who lives a half hour away from the City of The Dalles. The Dalles is where City Council meetings, Wasco County Commission meetings, and other City and County meetings are held when in person meetings are possible. There have been times when we have been unable to attend meetings in person due to poor weather. It is not unusual during winter to be snowed in for several days and up to a week occasionally.

Since remote meetings have been held, attendance at County Commission, Planning Commission and City of The Dalles Council meetings has increased. Remote access is convenient, saves time, and is better for the environment as there is less driving involved. Wasco County covers a large geographic area. Antelope, as an example, is 85 miles away. It is also less intimidating to testify remotely than in the County Courtroom or Council chambers.

Remote meetings allow more people to participate. I urge you to support HB 2560 and make remote access to meetings permanent.

Thank you.