

My name is Paul Lipscomb. I am 72 years old and I live in rural Deschutes County. The silver lining in the dark cloud of Covid 19 has been our ability as elderly Central Oregon to keep in touch with our government officials via remote video, and to attend important committee meetings and even testify remotely without having to drive to Salem. The Salem Capital is almost a three hour drive from here. As we all get older, 6 hours of drivetime for 5 minutes of testimony becomes less and less attractive, despite the importance of the issue and our desire to have our voices heard.

My message is therefore quite simple: Please make the changes adopted for this years legislative session permanent. These changes have been very good from the perspective of citizen involvement. Please don't take them away once Covid passes.

Thank you all for your public service and the extra effort that was made to accommodate rural Oregonians, especially those of us east of the mountains!