

Hello: i wish to express my support for adoption of HB2560 - Equitable Access to Civic Engagement. I worked as land use planner/ public administrator for many years in both rural and urban areas of Oregon and experienced first hand the difficulties citizens had in participating in governing decisions that really impacted them. This bill would remove many obstacles to citizen participation, improve access to, and communication with, decision-makers and assist governments to make decisions more relevant to the needs of the community. Furthermore, it is my opinion that this legislation, by making access to governing easier, has the potential to foster positive civic values associated with citizen participation and engagement.

In addition to the overriding positive benefits of this bill there is an issue that deserves consideration. Many smaller jurisdictions may not have the resources or existing in-house expertise to set up and manage the technology associated with this bill. Consideration should be given to providing these resources such as through citizen participation grants via the appropriate state agency(ies)..

Thank you.

Ron Bunch