

I fully support this bill. All Oregonians need to be able to make their voices heard at a state and local level in order to inform their representatives about their viewpoints. Especially true at the state level, rural Oregonians do not have the same access to participating in politics as folks who live in the Willamette Valley do. It's further to drive to Salem for someone living in Ontario than it is for someone living in Eugene - so keeping remote access available to allow all Oregonians to engage politically is extremely important to preserve a true representative democracy.

Earlier this session I had signed up to testify in favor of a bill. This bill had a massive amount of attendees and the public testimony had to get rescheduled twice. If I had had to drive to Salem from Portland not just once, but three times in order to have my voice heard I would have been supremely upset. But, since I was attending remotely, it was just a minor inconvenience. I imagine that if someone living in Burns had taken the day off of work and driven to Salem to testify for something they really cared about only to have the meeting postponed it would just further reaffirm their feeling that the state level government doesn't want to hear their opinion.

This bill will bring us closer together by allowing all Oregonians to voice their opinion on bills at the local and state level regardless of access to the places of legislation. I encourage you to pass this bill wholeheartedly!