

At present, Oregon has introduced a COVID-related emergency/temporary requirement that all local governments provide a remote access option for local public hearings and meetings.

This proposed bill would make remote access a permanent feature after the state's COVID-related restrictions on in-person hearings are lifted.

Remote access to public hearings and meetings is an equalizer, as the in-person only nature of many meetings excludes a large swath of Oregonians.

Equitable access to meetings is especially important for disabled individuals, those who live far from their county seat, who do not or cannot drive, or who have family or school obligations that prevent them from coming in person, to name a few.

More Oregonians will have the opportunity to be involved in the civic engagement process if remote access remains in place.

While there are additional steps state agencies and local governments should take to provide equitable access, providing remote access is a significant and needed method.

**STATEWIDE LAND USE GOAL 1
CALLS FOR "THE OPPORTUNITY
FOR CITIZENS TO BE INVOLVED
IN ALL PHASES OF THE
PLANNING PROCESS."**

**THIS BILL PASSED THE
HOUSE WITH A STRONG
BIPARTISAN VOTE.**

SUPPORT HB 2560A: EQUITABLE ACCESS TO CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

HB 2560A would make remote access to public land use meetings and hearings permanent.

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OREGONIANS SUPPORT HB 2560A

"I live and farm in Cove but the market for my produce spans multiple rural counties. This year I was able to participate remotely in city council discussions affecting the La Grande farmers market, one of my main sales outlets. Remotely, I was able to keep tabs on decisions and effectively advocate for my operation. Instead of driving an hour to town to the meeting, I could listen and make dinner for my family."

Nella Mae Parks | Cove, Oregon

ENDORSEMENTS

