

My name is Pamela Burry, and I represent Oregon Land and Water Alliance (OLAWA) based in Sisters: 210 miles, roundtrip, to Salem, Oregon.

We want to thank you for the virtual connection you have provided, which has allowed us to stay involved in current legislative issues, during a very difficult year.

OLAWA supports HB2560A, and we urge you to keep the electronic ability to participate in place. Such access has been invaluable, and will be in the future, as the world continues to make changes. The ability to participate online increases networking, discussion and community involvement. It removes obstacles, allowing people to get involved, and use their voice, regardless of distance, as I am doing now by testifying online. From Central Oregon, the drive to Salem is long and can be precarious. The road is subject to weather, increased traffic, and delays for construction and fire clean-up. The five, or six, hour journey is not a wise one to make for just a few minutes to testify in person. For those who cannot, or should not, make the drive, access online tells them that their right to participate will not be denied.

It is not a time to subtract avenues of engagement. It is a time to sustain something positive we have learned during the pandemic: we can and should make all possible adjustments so Oregonians have increased access and the ability to respond online to information that makes a difference in our lives, regardless of where we live, or how far away we live; regardless of our age or circumstance, or if we have access to a car; not to mention the unnecessary burning of fuel to get over the Santiam Pass.

One less car. One more voice.

Thank you for this ability to testify online, allowing me to remain safe at home, and not on the road!

Yes, to HB2560A.

It levels the playing field, allowing everyone, from anywhere, the chance to be heard by our lawmakers.

Thank you for reading.

Yours,

Pamela Burry
Oregon Land and Water Alliance