



Testimony on HB 3883 and HB 3887

April 14, 2025

House Committee on Rules
900 Court St NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Drazan and Pham, and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 3883 and HB 3887, which propose changes to how local governments conduct public meetings.

Our governments strongly support open and transparent public meetings and we appreciate the intent behind these two measures to encourage additional participation from community members. However, we want to clearly communicate our concerns about local control of local government processes as well as suggestions for potential improvements to these policies.

Local jurisdictions and their community members should retain the ability to determine how to facilitate public comment as well as the best way to manage their time in public meetings to ensure business can be completed. While business meetings of our Boards of Commissioners include regular opportunities for public comment, our counties also conduct myriad advisory boards and committees which depend on volunteers to serve. We have concerns that applying required public comment periods on the agendas of advisory committees will make it more difficult for them to schedule meetings and efficiently complete their work.

We encourage the committee to amend the bills to achieve the following goals:

- Allow local governments to determine the order of meeting agendas for the inclusion of public comment periods
- Remove the reference to 'reasonable duration'

- Exclude work sessions, briefings, and meetings where votes are not being taken from the requirement to include public comment periods

Thank you for your consideration and we appreciate your attention to our testimony.

Submitted by Tom Powers

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