



Transparent government | Fair elections | Thriving communities

The Wyoming State Capitol
200 W. 24th St.
Cheyenne WY 82001

January 16, 2023

Dear President Driskill, Speaker Sommers, and esteemed Members of the Management Council:

On behalf of the Equality State Policy Center, thank you for your continued work to make the legislative process transparent and accessible to the public. We owe a debt of gratitude to our citizen legislature for the sacrifices you each make to serve Wyoming.

Last week, several committee chairs expressed opposition to remote testimony. Two committee chairs have gone as far as to prohibit any public testimony provided by remote participation during committee meetings. Remote participation has allowed folks from across the state to participate in the lawmaking process and take an active role in state government.

The current policy for interim committee meetings clearly states, "remote public participation may be subject to other limitations as determined by the committee chairman including limitations on the time allowed for public comment and the total number of requests approved per agenda topic." Although there is no explicit remote testimony policy related to committee meetings during session, creating a similar policy for the session would make for more inclusive and robust discussions about important issues.

There are technical aspects and time management issues that come with including remote testimony but the benefit of greater public participation merits the effort. It is true that testimony may be best received in person, but it is important to consider what it takes to travel to the Capitol during the session. My neighbors and friends in Star Valley would have to spend considerable time and money traveling to testify before a committee for a few minutes if they were able to leave their job for at least two days.



Transparent government | Fair elections | Thriving communities

I am requesting that the Management Council consider a rule that would require remote testimony be made available to virtual participants with the ability of committee chairs to place reasonable restrictions like time limits and registration deadlines. With these sideboards in place, allowing virtual testimony will continue to allow for greater public participation and debate.

With gratitude,

Jenn Lowe
Executive Director
Equality State Policy Center

Cc: ESPC Board of Directors
Matt Obrecht, LSO