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Date: Sun, Nov 8, 2020 at 2:12 PM
Subject: Expand flexibility for electronic participation
To: <foiacouncil@dls.virginia.gov>

FOIA Council,

My name is Irina Khanin. I live in Winchester, VA and while I am not a member of a public body, I think it's important that those who are be able to participate electronically. The public benefits from a government, including advisory bodies, that reflects its population and includes a diversity of voices and experiences, including those who have children, aging parents, and/or have jobs that require travel. Over this year, we have learned how effective it can be for people to participate in meetings virtually.

I urge you to vote this year to remove any state-level limit for how often a member may participate electronically and to allow public bodies to to address any subject during emergency electronic meetings. I would also like you to study in 2021 how there can be further increased flexibility for meeting electronically even when there is not an emergency.

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