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May 6, 2021

President of the Senate Don Dockstader
Speaker of the House Eric Barlow
Members of the Management Council

Dear President Dockstader, Speaker Barlow, and esteemed Members of the Wyoming State Legislature's Management Council:

The Equality State Policy Center wishes to thank you for your continued work to make the legislative process transparent and accessible to the public, and to keep lawmakers and the public safe during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Thanks to you and the Legislative Services Office staff, the shift to online committee meetings and a hybrid session was relatively seamless. Your flexibility and your commitment to employing 21st century technology to allow for virtual testimony expanded Wyomingites' options for civic engagement during the recent session. It led to robust public participation, with people from around the state able to "attend" hearings and provide informed and compelling testimony. In fact, as I'm sure you all know, at least one landowner was able to call in from his truck to testify on a proposed wind tax.

It's in the spirit of ensuring and encouraging this kind of continued civic engagement that the Equality State Policy Center would like to offer recommendations for making the video-based committee meeting format more effective.

We ask that you consider the following proposals to allow for greater public access and further improve transparency for people around the state.

1. Maintain the hybrid model for both the special and interim sessions.
2. Ensure that all joint committees adhere to allowing both in-person and virtual meeting options.

We believe these practices and this proposed level of transparency will help both legislators and Wyoming citizens. They will also help foster public input, feedback, and comments.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these requests. And thank you for your dedication and service on behalf of the citizens of Wyoming.

Sincerely,

Anastasia Marchese
Acting Director
Equality State Policy Center

cc: Matt Obrecht, LSO