



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

GARLIN GILCHRIST II  
LT. GOVERNOR

July 13, 2021

Michigan House of Representatives  
State Capitol Building  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Representatives,

Today, I signed Enrolled House Bill 4603 of 2021, allowing certain agricultural boards to utilize remote meeting technologies under the Open Meetings Act.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced Michigan into a year-long experiment with remote public meetings. That experiment was a resounding success: remote meetings allowed the public's business to continue while keeping people safe from COVID-19 and reduced barriers to civic participation. Thousands of Michiganders who otherwise would have been deterred by long travel times, challenging work schedules, and child care hurdles were able to speak their minds over Zoom.

But we shouldn't have to wait for another crisis to expand opportunities for participation. I am calling on this Legislature to send me a bill that permanently allows for remote meetings for public bodies of all sorts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gretchen Whitmer".

Gretchen Whitmer  
Governor