

Good morning. I'd like to comment concerning the rules and public comment. I've been to meetings in Orange County where the public was encouraged to participate by remote access as well as in person, and they queue the callers and they are allowed to comment in turn. I was really impressed by how well this worked and how much respect the committee members showed to the public speakers. Here, remote access has only been allowed in a limited way for legislators who can't attend in person or presenters. People can't just call in for public comment using their phones. I'm not sure if our technology here is inadequate to handle remote public comment, or just that it hasn't been done since encouraging more public input and participation has certainly not been prioritized. Mr. Greene has told me that there are hundreds of people watching these meetings, but they have no way to contribute if they can't come here. Please consider investing in this as an option for the future.

I'd also like to comment on the resolution to appoint five members to the ethics board. Having been a witness to the misuse and weaponization of the ethics board during the previous legislature, I recommend that we let the state decide ethical cases for us. They have a very well-developed process for this and I have very little confidence in Sullivan' County's ability to select and train a competent board or to utilize an ethics board ethically.