

Dear Legislator,

I read the Statesman Journal article on Jan 12, 2012 about the Dept of Revenue's computer core system replacement to cost 92M, aside from the 6M they've already spent on setting it all up. My concern about this is at a time when agencies are cutting services to Oregonians, a state agency should not be spending dollars to fund a new system when the current system is working very well. The new system is just a re-invention of what we already have in place but with a price tag of 92M initially. I say initially because the cost of ownership is not reflected in this price tag.

I propose scrapping the core system replacement project and instead enhance the current system using in-house resources. Revenue has a pool of talented IT professionals who are very capable of improving the system for a fraction of the cost of replacing it. Using in-house talent also ensures that the business knowledge is already there as opposed to outside contractors who have to learn the business.

Many Revenue employees have submitted to management suggestions on how to improve not just the system but also the business processes. But the suggestions have not been implemented giving the reason that the new system will do all that for us. Given that the new system will be implemented in 7 years, I think management decision not to improve what we can right now is a waste of time and dollars.

On February, Senate Bill 1530 will come up for session. I question the state of emergency declaration in Section 6. I have other concerns as well regarding this bill which I would be willing to discuss. I respectfully urge you to oppose this bill as there is no state of emergency. to the public's peace, health and safety. On the contrary approving this bill would drain the state of money it doesn't have.

I will keep this short for respect of your time. I hope you will look closely into the facts. Please feel free to contact any IT employee (not a manager) from DOR and you will soon find out that many IT employees think this is the wrong direction management is taking the state.

Sincerely,  
Dept of Revenue IT Employees