



March 19, 2013

House Committee on Consumer Protection
And Government Efficiency
Testimony on HB 3080

Chair Holvey and members of the Committee:

My name is Mike Scott. I have been with the Oregon Department of Transportation for nearly 18 years. I am the President of ODOT Local 730. I am here today to testify in support of HB 3080.

HB 2500 was passed unanimously by the 2009 Legislature to create the Oregon transparency website and establish the Transparency Oregon Advisory Commission. The measure was introduced due to interest in having Oregon join the growing number of states that have operational websites for posting state spending and detailing financial information.

The 2009 transparency legislation was a great step forward to increasing open and accountable government. However, some adjustments are needed to help the legislation live up to its promise.

HB 3080 aims to add one additional piece of information to the website, but more importantly, it aims to have the information presented in a more user-friendly way.

The bill requires contracting agencies that complete feasibility studies to post those studies on the transparency website at least once every six months.

The bill also requires information on the website to be updated once every six months. Currently, updates happen mid-year for the previous year.

Information on annual expenditures must show the actual amount expended, not just the amount authorized to be spent. Right now you can find out how much an agency paid a contractor, but it is nearly impossible to see what work the payment was for.

Lastly, the bill requires the information to be reported and presented in a manner that is much more user-friendly and easier to access in regards to the date of the contracts and state in which vendors reside. Currently, it is impossible to sort expenditures by active date and determine how many active contracts the state has. Also, it is impossible to sort expenditures by state in which vendors reside and determine how many contracts are going to out-of-state vendors.

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We commend all of the great work DAS and the Legislature have put into creating and maintaining the website. We would like to ask for the committees support the take the next step in creating a more open and accountable government.

Thank you for your time.