

Date: April 11, 2013
To: Secretary, Oregon House Judiciary Committee
RE: Oral Testimony in Favor of HB 3467

“Madam Chairman, I live by Johns Landing in Portland. I’m Jim Hansen in favor HB3467. Judiciary Members: I’ve been in the investment business since 1980. I’m now Chief Operating Officer of Darius Capital Company. We provide financing for emerging growth companies.

In the post-Bernie Madoff investment climate, we are all regarded with suspicion irrespective of lifetime achievement. International institutional investors routinely spend \$25,000 or more on due diligence and are especially sensitive about what they find on the Internet. Today they find a mug shot of a great Oregonian, our general manager, Peter Oberdorf. This is really hurtful.

How much does this hurt us? We recently had to explain the criminality of driving with expired tags, scraped from the Clatsop County website. This caused a two-week closing delay for a \$200 million investment; normally not a big deal except during this delay a banking write-down occurred in the country of origin and that money is gone.

At issue is the expression of public records. The “public record” and the “expression of the public record” are two completely separate concepts.

One must ask: Why has the mug shot business, in just five years grown from total obscurity to massive profitability and an enormous headache? It is because we changed the expression of our public records. Instead of a photo in a courthouse file drawer, we now deliver worldwide, free of charge, 24 hours per day, 16-million-bit color PDF images. Overnight, the cost of running an extortion racket crashed, so all the extortion revenue, is now profit. Our change of expression is the SOLE CAUSE of the mug shot business, which is harming Oregonians. This must change.

The free expression of public records over the Internet is not free: It’s expensive: there’s the cost of the software, computer, camera, training, electricity, the building, the internet connection, the security, the labor, the pension plan, the health care, the backup hard drive, and continuing maintenance. The expression of public records is a public asset, no different than a bridge, a police car or airport. It is wrong to gift to profiteers what the taxpayers have paid so dearly to build.

Please consider this wisdom, “Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before the swine, lest they trample them under their feet and turn and tear you in pieces.”

Please pass HB 3467.

Madam Chairman this Oregonian yields the balance of his time.

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