



Marion County

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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February 26, 2013

Representative Paul Holvey, Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Government Efficiency
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Holvey and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2829. I served with Representative Nancy Nathanson on the Government Efficiency Task Force and this bill addresses an issue that was raised at the task force meetings.

I wholeheartedly embrace government transparency. I think it is critical that taxpayers know how their dollars are being spent, are informed about upcoming decisions, and have the opportunity to participate in the public process.

If the current law (ORS 294.250) was a useful tool in promoting government transparency, I would not be testifying in favor of House Bill 2829. Instead the current law adds significant burdens of time, energy and cost to local governments with archaic requirements that result in information that is essentially useless to the public.

In the 21st Century, Marion County uses a tool called "the Internet." We post all of our board meetings and agendas there. Our budget and quarterly financial reports are there. We also televise our board sessions live through cable access and the sessions are replayed three more times each week. Those sessions are also streamed 24/7 online.

The attached 46-page document is what Marion County is required to post on public library bulletin boards and at the county courthouse *monthly* under current statute. I believe there are more efficient and effective ways of conveying this information.

Thank you for your consideration and support of House Bill 2829.

Sincerely,

Janet Carlson
Commissioner