



1536 SE 11th Ave., Ste. A | Portland, OR 97214

www.ospirg.org (503) 231-4181 (ph)
info@ospirg.org (503) 231-4007 (fx)

February 5, 2014

To: Representative Tobias Read, Chair
Members of House Committee on Transportation and Economic Development

From: Celeste Meiffren-Swango, Consumer and Taxpayer Advocate, OSPIRG

Re: House Bill 4111

OSPIRG is a statewide consumer advocacy organization. We are concerned with the lack of proper transparency built into House Bill 4111 in its current form, specifically Section 19: 3(a) (b) and (c).

Infrastructure Innovation Oregon should not be given special treatment in the way that it handles public records requests and should not have the sweeping authority to deny any public records request for any reason. This inherently cuts against the public interest.

Additionally, the ability for a member of the public to petition the Attorney General after their public records request is denied is one of the strengths of our public records law. It ensures that the public records law is being implemented properly, and that the public is able to see whatever records are truly public.

By giving Infrastructure Innovation Oregon the authority to deny any public records request for any reason and not allow for a member of the public to petition the Attorney General, records that are public will be shielded from public scrutiny, which opens the door to cronyism, corruption and, ultimately, a public distrust of government.

If Infrastructure Innovation Oregon is truly going to work on behalf of the public interest, instituting strong transparency measures is key. We urge you to remove Section 19: 3(a) (b) and (c) and ensure that the public's right to view public documents is protected.