House Committee on Rules   February 25, 2014
Testimony in opposition to SB 1515

Dear Chair Hoyle & members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and contribute to the discussion on SB1515 concerning the establishment of a work group to study the feasibility of internet voting.

Only portion of the bill has great merit:
Section 1 (2) d)
d) Best practices that may be derived from the adoption of innovative approaches and protections currently used by private industry for Internet banking, shopping, education and work;

There have been far too many IT project failures undertaken by the State of Oregon.
Headlines are full of our state's recent failures, Cover Oregon, ORESTAR outages and security breaches.
Should the State of Oregon be starting more with our history of too little success in technology projects?

A study to modify ANY election process requires better definition and AFTER the State of Oregon has regained control of existing IT functions. **Best practices need to be applied to existing functions first.**

The Secretary of State has the Audit Division and the responsibility to report to the Legislature what has happened to projects which have been failing one after another. Until there is a Statewide review, public disclosure and accountability for the multiple departmental IT project failures; there should be a moratorium on initiating ANY new IT projects. A study conducted now would need to be repeated by the time existing failures are remedied.

There is no emergency necessitating a study group to take Election processes to an online process.
It is hard to imagine how this work group, on a fast track does anything to restore confidence in the governance in the State of Oregon.

Authorizations for studies are too often in the form of an outline for the conclusions that a group is tasked to reach with the assistance of a preselected consulting firm. This bill reads like a series of pre-determined outcomes and that does NOT "increase the confidence of electors in the integrity and transparency of the electoral system,". Presuming savings and integration with an online voters pamphlet is putting the cart before the horse, again.

 My professional background is in process engineering & auditing, focused on failure analysis.
One universal truth emerges regularly, project outcomes don't get any better if prior failures aren't acknowledged and dealt with.

This work group should not be authorized, the timing is such that those authorizing the work have spread this into a lame duck interim period and foist it upon the 2015-2016 Legislature. Declaration of an emergency doesn't make this group a good idea – it sets off the common sense alarms that should be heeded.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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