



Oregon

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**Testimony of
Mary Abrams, Director
Department of State Lands
on
House Bill 2462
House Committee on Rural Communities,
Land Use and Water
February 5, 2015**

State Land Board

John A. Kitzhaber, MD
Governor

Kate Brown
Secretary of State

Ted Wheeler
State Treasurer

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of HB 2462 which would allow the Department of State Lands to keep only an electronic copy of other agencies' property transactions.

The Department is currently required by statute to keep and preserve paper records of all property transactions (including leases) that are executed by all state agencies. This outdated requirement creates unnecessary administrative oversight and costs for the Department of State Lands and for other agencies. It also perpetuates the use of paper files in a time when electronic archiving is a cheaper and very common alternative.

This "streamlining" bill would amend ORS 273.099 to remove leases from the list of instruments to be documented by the Department of State Lands, and allow the agency to fulfill its statutory obligation by retaining an electronic copy of land transactions, such as sales, acquisitions, and exchanges.

Over the past several years, the Department has made it a priority to store files and documents electronically to reduce the expense of producing and storing paper files, and we have made a great deal of progress in this effort. This bill would further our effort to store files and information electronically.

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