

February 10, 2015

Representative Jeff Barker, Chair
Representatives Andy Olson and Jennifer Williamson, Vice-Chairs
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 2609: The Certification of Misdemeanor Accusatory Instruments

Dear Chair Barker and Members of the Committee:

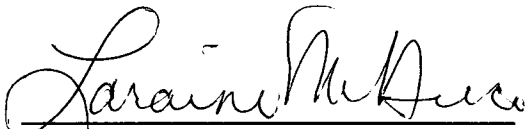
The City of Oregon City plans to use an electronic document management system to prepare and file accusatory instruments. The current requirement found in ORS 133.015(8) that a misdemeanor criminal information or complaint contain a "verification" by the complainant presents us with a problem in that we are required to print, notarize, and re-scan the accusatory instrument into our system.

The act of notarizing an accusatory instrument creates a "traffic jam" in an otherwise efficient electronic processing system, and is a problem that the authors of the state's criminal procedure code couldn't have foreseen when the code was drafted in 1972.

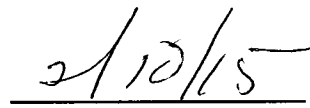
House Bill 2609 amends the state's criminal procedure code to give prosecuting agencies the option to "certify" an information or complaint in a misdemeanor criminal prosecution and to punish a false certification of an accusatory instrument as a Class A misdemeanor. HB 2609 does not mandate any change in a prosecuting office's policies, practices or procedures.

We urge your support for HB 2609.

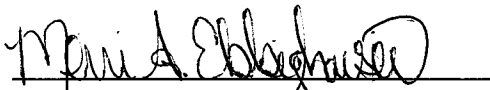
Sincerely,



Laraine McNiece
City of Oregon City Municipal Judge



Date



Merri Ebbighausen
City of Oregon City Court Manager



Date