



Testimony on HB5040
Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development
Submitted on March 30, 2015
Submitted by Pam Leavitt, Northwest Credit Union Association

Credit unions are not-for-profit financial cooperatives, organized to meet the needs of their members. They are democratically owned and controlled institutions, based on the “people helping people” principle. With more than 1.63 million members, Oregon credit unions strive to preserve a legislative climate that recognizes their unique structure and mission.

Comments in Support of DMV’s Service Transformation Program

The Northwest Credit Union Association is in strong support of updating and modernizing the DMV’s outdated computer system. As you have heard, they were designed and built more than thirty years ago.

In 2014, Oregon credit unions began the process of discussing a variety of legislative and regulatory issues that could be addressed in the 2015 legislative session to help them better serve credit union members. One issue that kept coming up was the process for submitting documentation to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to change ownership and lien information on vehicle title certificates. Because this is a key part of the process for completing a car loans, our members asked that we begin discussions with DMV on the issue of electronic titling along with electronic signatures.

As the auto lending process becomes more streamlined through use of technology, the process for perfecting a security interest and transferring ownership on a title certificate has not kept pace. Permitting the use of digital signatures and electronic documents, subject to reasonable and appropriate safeguards, will save the state time and expense and will reduce the amount of time and effort required of borrowers and lenders to ensure that a new title certificate with the appropriate information. Aside from the odometer disclosure and the secure power of attorney that is sometimes used to facilitate signing the odometer disclosure, the vehicle transfer and titling process can be done seamlessly with electronic signatures. Requirement for wet signatures in the current titling process in Oregon is cumbersome and inefficient due to the fact that physical signatures are required for odometer disclosures. This issue costs the state unnecessary time and expense, causes financial institutions and auto dealers economic harm, and buyers and sellers of vehicles unnecessary frustration that could easily be eliminated.

We believe an update to DMV’s computer system and support for their Service Transformation Program creates efficiencies for all interested parties. We will continue to work with DMV as they look to upgrade their systems and improve efficiencies. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.