

The Honorable Val Hoyle  
House Committee on Rules  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Representative Hoyle and Members of the Committee:

I work for the City of Central Point, in Southern Oregon. Our city has a population of 18,329 with 71 full time employees, 30 of those are Police Department employees. The City of Central Point is against HB3505.

In Central Point records requests are responded to within 10 days. I provide a time line and cost estimate if it cannot be filled within those 10 days. If it looks like the request will cost more than \$10.00 we require payment before we begin looking for the records. There have been several instances over the years where we have been asked for records, but when they are ready for the requestor to pick up and pay for them they never show up to get the records. Staff time and tax payer money has just been wasted. If a request in Central Point costs more than \$10.00 it is usually a complex request which would require staff time to research records and copies.

Placing strict deadlines on our cities will only cost our citizens money, usually by organizations that are not part of our community. If we were to get a land use records request we would need the Community Development Director or Planning Manager to research those records, both of whom are often out of the office, at training conferences, or in the field working with the community on development. We have three employees in the Community Development Department. I am sure you are aware how complex land use issues can be and locating records of a past project can be time consuming. If the State is requiring our Staff to fulfill a records request within a specified time frame required by this Bill it will take away from our community and the work that is so important to our economic growth.

If the state approves Section 3 (4)(a) of HB 3505 our staff would need to put aside planning applications that are important to our community to fulfill a Records Request that may be fishing for information that is not there.

The City of Central Point has a comprehensive Public Records process. They are submitted to my office and I follow them until the process is complete. We do not have extra staff members who can stop what they are doing to work on a request. We take pride in knowing that we are a transparent organization. I have the ability to waive fees if I feel it would be in the best interest of Central Point. We have a time frame that is workable within our organization. If the records take time to produce and we have to charge a fee, that fee goes back into the General Fund. In no way does it actually cover the cost of our staff time to research, but it is a start.

Please do not put a burden on the Citizens of Central Point because a few organizations find it hard to fulfill records requests in a timely manner.

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Thank you for your consideration of this request!

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