

Dear Representative Hoyle and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sheila Cox and I have been the City Recorder for the City of Roseburg since December, 1982. The City of Roseburg is located along the I-5 corridor, just south of Eugene and north of Grants Pass, and has a population of almost 23,000.

Like most cities, we receive numerous public records requests yearly. Our Council adopted a policy – *years ago* - regarding how such requests are processed. The policy is extremely fair and I've never had a complaint regarding our process or the fees associated with processing a request. But like everything else, requests for public records must be "prioritized" along with the workload of other tasks expected of our office. An "arbitrary deadline" could be extremely problematic. For instance, if we are in the process of trying to compile a Council agenda packet for an upcoming meeting, that must take priority over someone expecting us to put that "on hold" and take time then and there to respond to a records request that may well take 5 hours staff time and 200 copies to complete.

Before we adopted our policy we actually had a City Councilor who filed a request that took 5 reams of papers and an unbelievable amount of staff time to comply with. Our policy now addresses requests filed by elected officials, as well as regular citizens. As City Recorder, I pride myself in being a "direct access point" for citizens in our community and I also pride myself in how quickly we respond to *any* request from a citizen. If we can respond to a request electronically, or without spending more than 30 minutes staff time – or copying more than 5 pages – we don't even charge. But regardless, the customer is always advised of how long it make take for us to respond and given an estimate of what it might cost.

The incident leading to the proposed amendment actually had nothing to do with the records retention schedule and the proposed amendment would put one more burden on cities already limited with adequate storage space to keep the records we're currently required to keep. Additionally, I am a member of the Oregon Association of Municipal Recorders Subcommittee who worked with the State Archives Office and the Secretary of State's Office to update our City records retention schedule. We put a great deal of time and effort into that project and the proposed amendment would make that feel like wasted effort. For those, and other practical reasons, I urge you to vote no on HB 3505.

Respectfully,

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