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OREGONIAN MEDIA GROUP

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Dear Majority Leader Williamson and members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Gordon Friedman and I am a reporter for The Oregonian. Thank you for convening this hearing on House Bills 2430 and 2431.

These bills repeal the sunset for the Public Records Advisory Council and require state agencies to report basic information about their handling of public records requests.

Legislators and statewide elected officials have said for years that Oregon's public records law needs improvement and protection. The Public Records Advisory Council is one way to progress toward those goals and it should be allowed to continue its work.

Many state agencies already keep basic information about how they process records requests. Others that do not can easily do so with a simple Excel spreadsheet. This information and its required reporting will be useful for officials who wish to identify ways to improve implementation of the records laws and to the public, who have an interest in government transparency.

Good bills, should pass.

Sincerely,

Gordon Friedman

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