

MALHEUR ENTERPRISE

The Voice of Malheur County

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

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HOUSE BILL 2430

Oregon House Committee on Judiciary

As a lifelong journalist and public records advocate in Oregon, I urge the House Committee on Judiciary to approve House Bill 2430, keeping alive the Oregon Public Records Advisory Council.

I have the honor of serving on the Public Records Advisory Council and find it an essential forum in which all those in government records have a voice. I especially have found it useful to hear directly and plainly the perspectives of the local government representatives on the PRAC. While I may disagree and have disagreed at times with them, I also have gained a truer understanding of the implications for open government decisions for those charged with the double duty of providing government information while protecting necessarily confidential information. I do hope that they, too, have learned more about the motivations and frustrations of those of us who deal with public access to records routinely.

Eliminating the sunset for the Public Records Advisory Council would allow this important work to continue. The legislation also would continue the position of the Public Records Advocate, a role now ably held by Ginger McCall and already making significant strides in effectively assessing and applying public records policy.

The Public Records Advisory Council is fulfilling the mandate given it by the Legislature. Your support in continuing that mandate affords the opportunity to produce even more effective service to government agencies and their employees, to the media and – most important – to the people of Oregon that all serve.

Respectfully,

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