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To: House Committee on Judiciary,
House Democratic Leader Jennifer Williamson, Chair

Re: **HB 2431** - Public Records Request Reporting Requirements - **Support**

Thank you for your work for the public on government transparency issues.

Since 1997, members of the public and government officials have cooperatively led Open Oregon, a member of the National Freedom of Information Coalition, which stands for the people's access to their government's open meetings and open records. As you may know, transparency in government is one of the most universally popular issues among Oregonians.

There is considerable controversy about the impact that public records requests have on government agencies. Without facts and evidence, the debate has been largely reduced to emotions and hearsay. Instituting a reporting requirement would give Oregonians valuable information about this vital government function for minimal time and expense. It would also give the public ways to move toward concrete solutions to the troubles that have only been magnified by the Information Age. When we know exactly what we are talking about, it will be much easier to hold agencies accountable and find common ground.

Thank you for providing the opportunity for public debate on this proposal.

Shasta Kearns Moore
President, Open Oregon
A National Freedom of Information Coalition chapter

cc: Open Oregon Board
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