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March 11, 2019

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

Re: **HB 2353** - Public Records Delay Penalties - **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. Our organization is a chapter 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.

The Oregon legislature has repeatedly affirmed the public's right to government documents in a timely manner. The reforms of 2017, including adding a specific deadline to provide an estimated time the response will be complete, have still not been sufficient to ensure timely and uniform responses to public records requests. Creating the ability to impose a fine would help ensure early in the process that agencies remain open and accountable to the public, thereby saving taxpayer time and money, as well as restoring public trust in government.

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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