

HB 2312 Property Boundary Disputes

Oregon's property tax system is run by county level administrators. These administrators are responsible for managing these data systems in an electronic format known generically as GIS. These GIS data layers were developed by local county administrators over a long period of time using public resources to do so. I studied this concept as my master's thesis project "Economic Models of Spatial Data Delivery Methods" to answer the questions: how to raise money for digitizing old plat maps to GIS, how to share in the cost of GIS systems, and what happens when local administrators attempt to recoup funds by selling local county taxlot data in electronic form. That was almost 20 years ago and it proved eerily correct.

This may sound like a good deal to local administrators = sell the data; however, this limits economic development across the entire community when government developed electronic data is "charged for".

And that is the system we are in: multiple counties charging a wide variety of rates for parcel data. This has limited research across the entire state because of the difficulties in aggregating and running queries across the entire GIS system. We can't do it if every county charge different rates for parcel data. And the data is not consistently updated statewide, and the range of rates is confusing. There could be a lot of discovery to be made to compare county level GIS parcel databases. Pretty sure we would uncover a good deal of government waste.

Most of these county level GIS programs have already paid for themselves over and over again, in terms of efficiency and intelligence it offers decision makers. I encourage elected officials to add an amendment to this bill preventing county GIS administrators from charging exorbitant amount of fees e equitable access to county level parcel data.

There are public citizens who do want this data for themselves. Some private companies have used this data to create things like Google Maps. That data was developed by the federal government at in the early stages. Likewise I believe we could see a plethora of technological activity at the county level if advocates and entrepreneurs had access to this data.

Unfortunately, the local county authorities are permitted to charge revenue gathering and has therefore limited citizen access to public data and potentially limited economic activity due to lack of data access.

THANKS

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