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CITY OF MEDFORD

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June 24, 2013

House Committee on Rules
Rep. Val Hoyle, Chair

RE: Opposition to House Bill 3505

Honorable Chair Hoyle and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Medford, I request you vote in opposition to HB 3505 which would require additional expenditure of staff time and City funds to fulfill. This bill does not seem practical in that it requires every city to adopt a separate records retention policy with higher levels of retention than of the Secretary of State's retention policies. The Oregon Association of Municipal Recorders in 2014 expended considerable time and energy working with the State Archivist to revise the City Retention Schedule. What is the benefit in requiring this additional burden to all cities, large and small, across the State? It appears that this bill was written in reaction to a specific incident and the issue it is trying to address has never arisen in my service as City Recorder for the City of Medford.

In addition, the City of Medford has adopted a fee schedule for records requests that appears to be less expensive than the fees proposed in the bill. We strive to respond to requests in a timely manner, quite often being able to email the documents before the requestor is even off the phone. We do not charge for these kinds of requests as most records are imaged and it is a simple matter to send them via email.

The current law for responding to records requests is sufficient. If it isn't broken, why change it? Customer service should not be legislated.

Sincerely,

Glenda Wilson
City Recorder