

City of Falls City
299 Mill Street
Falls City, OR 97344

Ph. 503.787.3631

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
TERRY UNGRICHT

April 24, 2015

Dear Honorable Chairman Hoyle and Members of the House committee on rules,

I am writing in opposition to HB 3505. I was elected as Mayor of the City of Falls City in the last election cycle. I have had to hit the ground running, learning the processes of City governing. I had a chance to look over HB 3505 and was amazed at the changes that would take place in the records request process. This would defiantly set up City's to fail and create a process that small City's staff could not hope to achieve.

I came into office in January; our town has extreme budget issues and a lack of staff. Since taking over I have had to take on the City Manager duties, which means not only the day to day operations but having to complete my first budget. I have been working 55 plus hours a week, this is in an unpaid volunteer position. Our City currently has 3 full time staff positions, two public works employees and a City Clerk. These employees go way beyond their scheduled duties to keep the City operating.

They are managing a waste water facility, a water treatment plant, the water and sewer lines through town, the parks, the streets, the billing for the utilities, Etc.

If this bill passes with the time limits and procedures that will be on record requests, there is no way our City would be able to afford a request under the proposed legislation. We struggle to keep the City moving forward, but HB 3505 just might be the final nail, leading to un-incorporation of our City.

I urge you to look at what the Legislature can do to help the struggling City's in Oregon, not pass legislation that will set our Oregon small City's up to fail. Please, I urge you to vote no on moving this legislation forward; vote NO on House Bill 3505.

Thank you for considering my plea.
Sincerely,

Terry Ungricht,
Mayor, Falls City, Oregon