



March 13, 2019

Majority Leader Jennifer Williamson, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary
Oregon State Legislature

HB 2340, 2341: SUPPORT

Chair Williamson and Members of the Committee:

The Society of Professional Journalists, Oregon Territory Chapter, urges your support of HB 2340 and HB 2341.

HB 2340: The Public Records Advisory Council plays an important role in supporting the Public Records Advocate's office. It provides a forum for public engagement and deliberation, as well as a window into the Advocate's important work in promoting a culture of public engagement, thus ensuring the public trust. It deserves reauthorization.

HB 2341: In our members' experience, government agencies frequently fail to employ low-cost, common-sense methods to make the process of informing the public faster, more efficient and less costly. In this context, HB 2341 represents an important step by encouraging basic best practices of agencies tracking their own performance on records. This, we believe, will help agencies identify opportunities to promote compliance, efficiency and lower cost while informing the public.

-Nick Budnick, board member, Oregon Territory Society of Professional Journalists. Co-chair, OTSPJ Freedom of Information Committee