



March 13, 2019

To: Chair Jennifer Williamson and members of the House Judiciary Committee

From: Laurie Hieb, Executive Director, Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association

Re: House Bill 2353

We all appreciate that transparency builds trust in government. For that reason, the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association asks you to support passage of House Bill 2353.

This legislation would not affect state and local government agencies who work in good faith to comply with our state's Public Records law.

It also would not change requirements approved by the 2017 Legislature ensuring that journalists and members of the public receive a reasonable, yet timely, acknowledgement and response to their public records requests.

HB2353 simply would allow for a district attorney, attorney general or judge to impose a fine if he or she determines that an agency has either completely disregarded a public records request or has created an undue delay in producing public records to a requester.

We believe this legislation will send a message from the Legislature to state and local government about their responsibility as custodians of the public's records.

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