Division of Assessment, Recording & Taxation

Date   April 25, 2019

To: The Honorable Prozanski, Chair
                Senate Judiciary Committee

Subject: House Bill 2425; amendment to Oregon Revised Statute 205.320

Chair Prozanski and members of the committee;

My name is Mike Vaughn, and I am the Director of Recording for Multnomah County. I thank you for allowing me some of your time today to talk about this amendment to House Bill 2425.

This amendment seeks to modernize ORS 205.320 1(d)(B) to add language clarifying the fee structure related to private parties receiving copies of recorded documents. The proposed addition would codify the current practice by the majority of counties in Oregon, and would clarify the fee structure related to copies of recorded documents given the current technological environment.

The current language for county clerk fees was drafted with the idea that clerks were storing documents on microfilm, retrieving them from the film, and providing copies to private parties in hard-copy, paper form. While many counties still use microfilm storage, and we often provide hard-copy document copies in our offices, we also get more and more requests for digital image copies. There are costs for the clerk, associated with the retrieval and transmission of these digital document image copies, just as there are with hard-copy paper document copies. <u>The language proposed in this amendment would simply clarify that the existing fee structure applies to digital document image copies, the same as it applies to hard-copy paper document copies</u>. The practice by the large majority of Oregon county clerks currently, is to charge for these digital copies, the same as they would for a paper copy. The amendment would modernize the law to speak to these current business practices.

Thank you again for allowing me to appear before you today and would be happy to answer any questions you may have at this time.

Mike Vaughn
Director
Multnomah County Assessment, Recording & Taxation

Testimony: Timothy C. Mercer –HB 2425