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TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF SENATE BILL 250

Chair Smith Warner, Vice-Chairs Drazan and Holvey, and Representatives Bonham, Fahey, Salinas, and Zika,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide brief testimony in support of Senate Bill 250.

The purpose of SB 250 is to update and clarify the state law that provides for regular business hours of the county clerks for receipt and certification of instruments presented for recording.

On the Senate side we worked with stakeholders to arrive at agreed upon language, which is now in the current version of the bill. This improved language will provide the needed availability and allow clerks to serve responsibly, while still meeting statutory obligations.

Current law restricts our ability to serve as responsible stewards of public resources and sometimes impedes our ability to access training and educational opportunities that might lead to system and service improvements. SB 250 would provide clerks the opportunities needed to gain knowledge and improve systems in service to title companies and other constituents with the latest advancements in our field.

The intent of SB 250 is not to free up Fridays for Clerk offices to close. Any change to regular office hours will be clearly posted and constituents notified well in advance. This will serve to avoid any disruption to the business community. Only in instances of absolute emergency will closures occur with little notice. Additionally, Clerks will strive to provide fair notice to business partners and the public if a planned event constitutes closing the office outside of regular hours.

SB 250 comes to you with strong bipartisan support from the Senate (28-1-1). OACC urges your support of Senate Bill 250.