

Submitter: Jesse London

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On General
Government

Measure: HB5035

I'm writing to ask that you approve the Oregon Corporation Division's ("OCD") budget request in so far as it modernizes the experience of its customers who depend on it creating more efficient and flexible access. Specifically, our experience has been that the OCD online systems critically lack an open and technically/financially feasible Application Programming Interface ("API") which would allow customers who frequently repeat similar transactions to do so programmatically and automate instead of by using a user interface to manually enter the information, including for searches. Approval of the budget request could allow OCD to tackle this problem and keep up with other states who have this functionality. In addition, creating API access could, in certain models or levels of use, become a revenue center. For example, per transaction or per monthly usage API transaction fees, if the fees were reasonable enough and not overreaching that the service would be used to make money on volume, not margin.

With regard to searches, an API would allow efficient access to records without the need for manual, one-at-a-time request and review of the data, but, instead, allow a batch mode to retrieve public data in real-time, but for later (time-shifted) review. With regard to API for non-search transactions, this would reduce entry times and, importantly, mistakes on key transactions such as entity creation and amendment as it pertains to our needs. Mistakes are eliminated by API automation because the information does not need to be copied from the source data and re-entered into the OCD system (where mistakes happen, e.g. transposition, missing info, etc.). Instead, data could be integrated and moved directly from the customer's source system to the OCD's system without human error. Another benefit to budgeting money for API automation is that its efficiency and ability to link directly to a customer's own system encourages business customers to update / amend information more frequently so that OCD information is up-to-date for review, trend analysis, litigation, and government enforcement purposes.

The OCD is attempting to move the needle on technology and automation to serve its business customers in the 21st century. Let's give them a shot.