



OREGONLIVE

**The Oregonian**

OREGONIAN MEDIA GROUP

Chair Kayse Jama  
Senate Committee on Rules

Submitter: Therese Bottomly, Editor of The Oregonian  
Re: SB1077 6-6-25

Chair Jama, members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 1077, which aims to increase transparency and trust in government by reducing impediments to Oregonians receiving vital public information.

High fees have long been a barrier to the free flow of information to the public. It is no secret that local news organizations face funding challenges, and public agencies too often use high fees as a way to stymie reporters in their attempts to inform voters and all Oregonians.

Fee waivers are too often rejected, leaving journalists little recourse. Some smaller news organizations have even had to resort to GoFundMe-type fundraising campaigns to fund their quest for public information.

That should not ever be the case.

But what happened was gratifying. Citizens rallied to fund the public records fee, showing a strong demand for accountability. Here is the background:

<https://www.salemreporter.com/2022/11/28/editors-column-city-drops-huge-fee-but-fight-continues-for-bellshaw-records/>

As editor of The Oregonian and a longtime proponent of government transparency, I urge your support of this bill and long-overdue reform.

Therese Bottomly  
Editor/Vice President  
The Oregonian/OregonLive