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Can you present my testimony for the Task Force today?

My employer requires 7 days notice for time off. Given that we just found out on Monday, that didn't make it possible.

And, given and that I have seen this process go round and round, and not go anywhere and only get worse, I don't see taking the hit worth it.

Thank you.

Angela Flood

My name is Angela Flood.

The first amendment states, in part Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances. While I am presenting today, I want you to think of those words and how they are being applied in this room.

During testimony for HB 3505, Bill Johnstone, Oregon Association of Broadcasters, stated media must often make business decisions about what they report based on the charges that will be incurred to get documents. Reporting may not occur, at all, due to delays. Elections may be influenced, as in the case of former Governor Kitzhaber, and the refusal to release documents when requested.

Often, in order to provide information for redress of grievances with the government, citizens need documentation. Citizens must be allowed unshackled access to that information. It cannot be hindered by charges or delays.

The practice of charging fees for documents is an antiquated abridgment of a free press and redress and it needs to stop.

I have been to so many of these transparency meetings, I have lost count. Always the same players. But, never any forward movement.

How many are here for the agenda of freeing up the information?

Too many dollars are being spent on highly paid, tax funded

lobbyists. People who coach entities to testify they cannot afford to comply with requests for records. If officials want to restore trust, can they afford not to provide sunlight into the transactions being made on citizens' behalf? Too many officials, who don't want information known, or are ignorant of the true value of disclosure, buy into the arguments. Lobbyists don't make money if they don't have a battle to fight. So, they create one.

For the right price, or the right person, those documents become available. That is not trust building.

The laws need to be brought into this century. If employees do not know how to work within the available technology, that should not be my problem. It's a job skill. Either they are qualified or they are not.

My goal is to see all documents made available online, and in real time. It doesn't have to be all documents at once. Pick a date and start there, going forward. And if someone requests something, put it online. In lieu of that, all documents should be made available free of charge. There is precedence for this in other states. Oregon continues to fail in transparency and it is not acceptable.

I promise you, despite the statements made by lobbyists and staff, no one is going to make thousands of requests at a time. Might people make requests that officials may be embarrassed to release? Quite possibly. But, when the documents become hard to come by, citizens become suspicious and animosity is generated.

In the private sector, if an employee delayed or charged their manager for information, they would be fired. Yet, this seems

to be completely acceptable by government towards citizens.

There is actually more money going into preventing access to information than what it would cost them to just comply. The attorney fees, the software to build secret list serv databases, the additional security. Instead of spending dollars on fighting sunlight, government should be opening the doors and saying come on in...we are open to do your business and this is how we are conducting it.

I pay for the computers, the people, the buildings, the technology. So, why is the burden on me to prove why I shouldn't pay? Why is the burden not on the agency to make their case to the DA of why they should be allowed to charge?

The current system is not just not working. It is sleazy and unconstitutional. It needs to be put out of it's misery so we can all get back to the business of the people. Quit grandstanding. Pick a date and start.

Thank you for your time.