

**From:** Les Ruark leswruark@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Some "bottom-line" thinking.  
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Michael:

My "bottom-line" thinking, in terms of the Task Force's work, and comment I'll be submitting in greater detail down the road versus later this afternoon, is that there are essentially two areas of the public records statutes that need to be protected and enhanced:

a) ensuring that simply asking questions and seeking verbal information about a matter is not automatically considered to be, or treated as, a "records request" (that is, whenever possible, basic and simple inquiries need to be responded to by public bodies and especially governing bodies without triggering or necessitating more of a procedure than "logging" the request); and,

b) that agenda support material for matters proposed and considered at a governing body's meeting are, as a norm, readily made available and, also as a norm, provided without cost (especially if they can be made available electronically).

For the average Oregonian, if the task force ends up advancing any meaningful or actually useful enhancements to chapter 192, these are the two aspects of the statutes that need most to be enhanced.

**Les**