



**Oregon Newspaper
Publishers Association**

Dear Members of the Oregon Sunshine Committee:

The Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association appreciates the considerable time this committee has spent hearing testimony and examining appropriate release of bulk data collected by Oregon public bodies and subject to Oregon's Public Records law.

ONPA believes, however, that there may be pressure upon members of the 2020 Legislature to restrict access or otherwise place severe limits on the use of bulk data. It's imperative for our state lawmakers to protect and defend the public's interest and right to information created and maintained by their government agencies.

Specifically, ONPA has the following concerns:

- **Access.** Legislation concerning release of bulk data must clearly preserve the right of access to bulk data records that is already guaranteed under state law.
- **Right of action.** Provisions granting a right of action against requesters would have a chilling effect and may deter smaller publications from pursuing important journalism in their communities.
- **Use agreements.** Government should not dictate nor narrow use of data released to news organizations. There may also be unforeseen consequences, including long delays in the release of data, for those who do not sign a bulk data transfer agreement.

Again, thank you for your work on this important subject.

Sincerely,



Laurie Hieb, Executive Director

Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association