



March 14, 2013

Representative Jeff Barker, Chair
House Committee On Judiciary
900 Court St. NE, H-480

RE: Support for HB 2944

Dear Chair Barker,

The Oregon Library Association supports HB 2944, an Act Relating to Electronic Legal Material. This legislation will enact the *Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act (UELMA)* and provide Oregon with a technology-neutral, outcomes-based approach to ensuring that online state legal material deemed official will be preserved and made permanently available to the public in unaltered form.

More and more states are eliminating their print legal resources in favor of online-only, without assuring trustworthiness and reliability. This bill will ensure that online legal material has the same level of authority traditionally provided by print publication. HB 2944 covers a range of key materials including the Oregon Constitution, Session laws, the Oregon Revised Statutes, and Oregon Administrative Rules.

The Uniform Law Commission (ULC), the American Association of Law Libraries, and the American Bar Association support *UELMA*. Many other stakeholders-- including the U.S. Government Printing Office, the National Archives and Records Administration, the Society of American Archivists, the National Center for State Courts, and the Association of Reporters of Judicial Decisions-- were observers to the ULC drafting committee.

By adopting *UELMA*, Oregon will establish itself as a leader among states that have recognized that official, electronic legal material must be authenticated, preserved and made permanently available to the public.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this important matter.

Janet Webster, Chair
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