

## HB 2906: Geospatial Data Sharing. Testimony for Committee Hearing

---

First, I want to be sure we're all on the same page: Geospatial data refers to any dataset with a locational element, such as an address, tax lot ID, milepost, or latitude/longitude coordinates. The vast majority of information used in government at all levels -- Federal, Tribal, Regional, State, and Local government -- can be referenced to a location. This geospatial data is an essential component to the business of government in virtually every program area, including e.g. Public Safety, Natural Resources, Economic Development, Human Services, Transportation, and so on. I believe it provides some of the most foundational information we in government require to make better place-based policy, program, and service delivery decisions.

### The Problem

---

Decisions by government that save lives, protect property preserve wildlife and natural resources, and ensure sustainable development often have a crucial element in common: success depends on reliable, accurate, and timely information. Today, many decisions are based on the best available data, which unfortunately can be very poor, and therefore create a great deal of uncertainty. Or, worse, potentially delay quick and effective response to emergencies threatening life or property. Often, data is not available when it is needed, or it is inadequate for the particular decision. Even in more mundane applications, like planning a traffic detour. Or routing school buses to save fuel; projecting school enrollment projections for facilities planning; determining public water supplies that may be at risk of contamination; planning for future water needs; developing public infrastructure projects; and improving broadband availability in rural areas. The data just isn't there, for lack of sharing.

Although some progress has been made over the past decade or so, that progress is slow, and agencies at all levels of government continue to duplicate the collection, management, and storage of data. There are also a variety of impediments that prevent data sharing between government agencies, such as concerns regarding privacy or confidentiality, liability and risk, the use of inter-governmental agreements, and simply the bottom-line cost of collecting, managing, and storing geospatial data.

### The Solution

---

As explained by the LFO analyst, the Joint Legislative Committee on Information Management and Technology made an initial attempt to address these issues through HB 4056 during the 2016 Legislative Session. However, it became clear early on in the session that more work with a broad set of stakeholders was required before we could effectively move forward.

So, in our roles on the JCLIMT, Senator Riley and I and the State CIO sponsored the formation of a 24 member, multi-jurisdictional, Geospatial Data Sharing Work Group to study issues related to the sharing of geospatial data. I am so pleased that after many months of stakeholders talking and rolling up their sleeves to work on this, they came to an agreement on the consensus bill before you - HB 2906.

## HB 2906: Geospatial Data Sharing. Testimony for Committee Hearing

---

This bill is designed to improve data sharing, and strengthen the relationship between -- and the efficiency of regional, tribal, state, and local governments, and special districts operating throughout Oregon. Ensuring that public bodies have access to publicly collected -- and publicly funded -- data when they need it is good government. It will help to improve government decision making and multi-agency cooperation... which I believe will benefit ALL Oregonians.