

Leigh Barker Cheesebro

From: Leigh Barker Cheesebro <barkerleigh2015@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 9:36 PM
To: DOA Public Records Board Comments
Subject: Change in definition of "transitory" records

Dear Members of the Wisconsin Public Records Board:

I write to voice my STRONG OBJECTION to the "clarification" (i.e. change) to the definition of "transitory records" made at your August 2015 board meeting. This action needs to be rescinded immediately at the meeting to be held next Monday (1/11/16). We live in an electronic age, and, whether we like it or not, much of our society's communication, decision making and business these days is conducted via text messages, emails, Facebook posts and other electronic communications. If communication, business or decision-making is conducted by public employees (and this includes elected and appointed officials), it most definitely must be open to the public. The medium must have absolutely NO bearing on whether or not a record is transitory. Electronic media should make our government more, not less, open to the public.

Your August action is already being used by people in power to limit the public's access to information. This is unacceptable to us, the citizens. It will encourage those in power to use these tools to conduct the public's business in the shadows. When government employees conduct the public's business and spend the taxpayers' dollars electronically, citizens have an interest in those communications and a right to see them.

Please uphold your responsibility to keep public records public.

Sincerely,

Leigh Barker Cheesebro

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