

R. W. S.

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**From:** R. W. S. <bob3415@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 6, 2016 2:46 PM  
**To:** DOA Public Records Board Comments  
**Cc:** Blessing, Matthew T - WHS; Schmidt, Melissa A - LEGIS; Ferguson, Paul M - DOJ; Naab, Bryan S - LAB; Broady-Rudd, Sandra; Buesing, Carl; Sorce, Peter  
**Subject:** Comment on Public Records Retention and Access

Public Records Board Members:

I rarely write comments to public officials or newspapers. This is an exception due to the nature of the issue involved. I have been following the actions, proposals, and debate related to the availability of public records and the efforts by some to limit that availability.

I will keep this brief. I am opposed to any changes in the legacy open records law; specifically changes to limit retention of and/or public access to text messages, e-mails, Facebook posts or other electronic communications by public officials related in any way to public issues or the spending of public funds. Only very limited exceptions should be allowed, e.g., such as those related to active or pending legal actions.

All government business should be done in an open fashion and all records of that business should be retained for public scrutiny. I see no difference between shredding a paper document and pushing the "delete" button for the same document in any electronic form. Both actions deny the public a rightful access and review.

I strongly urge the Board to rescind its recent action to limit public access to electronic (or other) records related to government work on public issues in any format. To not do so opens a huge loophole for potential abuse of the public trust.

Sincerely,  
Robert Stachowicz  
404 Michigan Court  
Waukesha, WI 53188