

Bob Bourgeois

From: Bob Bourgeois <rcbourgeois321@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2016 1:35 PM
To: DOA Public Records Board Comments
Cc: Blessing, Matthew T - WHS; Ferguson, Paul M - DOJ; Naab, Bryan S - LAB; Schmidt, Melissa A - LEGIS; Broady-Rudd, Sandra; Buesing, Carl; Sorce, Peter; Governor Scott Walker
Subject: Please rescind action to limit access to public employee electronic communications

To the Public Records Board:

I am a State of Wisconsin resident, employer and taxpayer and am writing to request that you rescind your August 24, 2015 action to limit access to public employee electronic "transitory" communications. By its very nature, this supposedly "clarifying" move makes it much more difficult for citizens to participate in democracy. In an era marked by significantly increasing reliance on electronic communications, limiting access to these communications moves us backwards, not forwards. Much is determined and decided in these supposedly "transitory" communications; limiting either their preservation or the public's access to them **by definition** keeps important deliberative information from public scrutiny. Quite simply, that is wrong.

Regardless of your originally stated intent, this move appears to have been engineered as an enabling mechanism for those who would prefer to hide from the public and the media their actions while in public service. Frankly, it's terrible public policy.

No good can come of this attempted obfuscation. And any claim of "efficiency" appears to be nothing more than a red herring. Effective and efficient maintenance of public records certainly does not require that State employee electronic communications be hidden from public view.

Thank you for your attention to this request in your upcoming January 11 meeting.

Respectfully,

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