

From: Skip Bliss <sbliss@gazettextra.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2016 3:36 PM
To: DOA Public Records Board Comments
Cc: WI Newspaper Association, Beth Bennett; mvetterkind@wi-broadcasters.org
Subject: Public Records Board Meeting, Jan. 11,2016

Members of the Board,

As publisher of the Janesville Gazette, and President of Bliss Communications, I am concerned and puzzled by attempts by the Wisconsin Legislature and your Board to stifle the Publics access to Government records. Wisconsin has a long and proud history of open Government, which has been achieved by the strength of the publics and the Medias access to government records of any type. This transparency has served us all well and has prevented abuse, corruption, and shenanigans of all kinds. For your board to simply attempt to slip through limits on so-called "Transitory" records without any notice, any vote, or even a mention in the boards minutes is ridiculous. A Government Record is exactly what it says. It is an account or description of an action or event that takes place, and no matter how a government official chronicles it, the public has a right to know its contents. Courts have ruled that electronic exchanges are public records and in these times when more and more communications and conversations are recorded electronically, the government should take all steps necessary to ensure that those records are retained and stored. This is the second attempt during 2015 to chip away at our transparency laws in Wisconsin and it sends a bad message to our citizenry about our government's intentions.

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