



# Washington Coalition for Open Government

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## **PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### ***POLICE BODY CAMERAS, MASSIVE PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS, AND CITIZEN ACTIVISM TO BE ADDRESSED AT WCOG OPEN GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE NEXT MONTH***

Computer programmer Tim Clemans sent minor shock waves through the open government community when he requested almost every email ever produced by every state agency in Washington. In a letter responding to Clemans' request, State Attorney General Bob Ferguson said the request was not compliant with the state's Public Records Act and therefore did not qualify as a request under that law. *Now Clemans has come back with an even more expansive request.*

### ***Do such tactics help or hurt the cause of open government in Washington State?***

*"The problem is, his tactic of making very large public records requests in order to try to get agencies to change their policies to proactively post records online really could backfire particularly during a legislative session when there's quite a number of bills that have been introduced that would make it more difficult to get access to public records."* said **WCOG President, Toby Nixon, in an interview with KUOW's Ross Reynolds.** *"He could become the poster child for agencies complaining about abusive and harassing requestors and legislators could react to that by passing things they may not otherwise pass."*

Plan to join the Washington Coalition for Open Government when these issues as well as concerns over police body cameras, electronic records, proactively posting records online, citizen activism, and transparency topics will be covered during the WCOG's upcoming Open Government Conference March 14<sup>th</sup> in Tacoma.

Don't miss this very important conference.

- For reservations and more information, go to our website at [www.washingtoncog.org](http://www.washingtoncog.org)
- For additional press details, contact WCOG Communications Consultant, Juli Bunting. [juli@washingtoncog.org](mailto:juli@washingtoncog.org), 206-353-4929
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