THEODORE R. KULONGOSKI
ATTORNEY GENERAL

THOMAS A. BALMER
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
1162 Court Street NE
Justice Building
Salem, Oregon 97310
Telephone: (503) 378-4400
TDD: (503) 378-5938

December 29, 1993

Lester R. Lemke
P.O. Box 1524
Coos Bay, OR 97420

Re: Petition Regarding Access Fees for OLIS

Dear Mr. Lemke:

This letter is in response to your petition dated December 20, 1993, in which you ask the Attorney General to order that the Oregon Legislative Information System be made available free of charge to the public, through the installation of toll-free telephone lines and modems. For the reasons discussed below, we respectfully deny your request.

The Oregon Legislative Information System is operated and maintained by the Legislative Assembly. It is under the administrative control of the Legislative Administration Committee. See ORS 173.710 to 173.790 (attached). The Legislative Administration Committee also has the authority to establish fees for use of its facilities and services.

The Attorney General has no authority to order the legislature or its committees to incur expenses. The Attorney General's authority with respect to access to public records is limited to determining whether the right to inspect public records has been unlawfully denied, and whether the waiver of fees or charges for access to public records has been unreasonably denied. See ORS 192.440 and 192.450 (attached).

The Legislative Administration Committee is the body to which your requests should be directed. It appears from the distribution list at the end of your letter that you have done so.

The Legislative Administration Committee meetings are open to the public. You may call (503) 986-1848, or write the committee at 349 State Capitol, Salem, OR 97310, to request that you be sent a copy of notices of committee meetings.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth S. Harchenko

ELIZABETH S. HARCHENKO
Special Counsel to the Attorney General

Enclosures
ESH:jpl/JAA00F6A.W51
c: Susan Wilson
Legislative Administration Committee