January 13, 1982

Leslie Zaitz
Staff Writer
The Oregonian
Room 40, Capitol Building
Salem, Oregon 97310

Dear Mr. Zaitz:

We have received your petition of January 11, 1982. You ask that the Attorney General overrule a claimed exemption from the Public Records Law asserted by the Director of the Department of Human Resources on December 31, 1981 with respect to a document entitled "State Revenue Reduction Plan - Department of Human Resources - Dec. 25, 1981." The petition also phrases the request as asking that the Attorney General find that the document "was withheld" in violation of the Public Records Law. From this statement and other information, it is clear that the document has been released and is now in the public domain. Your petition under the Public Records Law is therefore moot. The Attorney General's responsibility is to grant or deny requests for the production of public records. Inasmuch as disclosure has occurred, there is nothing for the Attorney General to decide.

In a very real sense, your petition asks for an opinion of the Attorney General's office. By statute, we cannot provide an advisory, legal opinion to a private citizen.

It is therefore ordered that your petition of January 11, 1982 be denied as moot.

Very truly yours,

STANTON F. LONG
Deputy Attorney General

SFL:tlg