



OREGON HOUSE REPUBLICANS

Research Briefing

July 18, 2008

DEMOCRATS' 'C+' STATE GOVERNMENT PRODUCES \$63.6 MILLION DOLLAR FLOP

Audit: Governor's Data Center Failing

"Oregon's new \$63.6 million state data center, sold to the Legislature and the public as a way to streamline government, may be a \$63.6 million failure.

"An audit released Wednesday by the secretary of state's office concludes that the center:

"Isn't saving money or managing state agencies' computer operations more efficiently.

"Hasn't made the state's electronic databanks more secure from hackers.

"Doesn't have a working plan to deal with disasters, such as a large earthquake or attack.

"The data center was one of Gov. Ted Kulongoski's early initiatives to make state government more efficient."

(Audit Finds Oregon's New Data Center Lacking, *The Oregonian*, Michelle Cole, 7/17/2008 [online](#))

House Democrats' 'Accountability' Chair Rep. Riley Hadn't Even Read the Audit

"House Government Accountability and Information Technology Committee Chairman Chuck Riley said he hasn't read the audit report but believes it's too soon to determine whether the new data center is failing to meet its goals.

(Audit Finds Oregon's New Data Center Lacking, *The Oregonian*, Michelle Cole, 7/17/2008 [online](#))

In Case You Missed It: The Democrats' 'C+' State Government

"Gov. Ted Kulongoski's efforts to make state government more effective in Oregon were rebuked by two bad assessments this week.

"The report by the secretary of state's office found that Oregon's new \$63.6 million data center isn't living up to its billing. It's failing to save money, failing to improve efficiency, failing to improve security and failing to prepare for disasters, the auditors concluded.

"On top of that dismal assessment, they determined it to be "unlikely" that the anticipated savings or operational benefits will materialize.

"That's not acceptable. The data center must succeed. Administrative Services Director Scott Harra insists that since the audit was completed early this year, the center has already begun to succeed. He should be held to his word.

"Creating the center was a sound, promising idea. That's why the 2005 Legislature approved it -- to save money and improve efficiency by consolidating 12 state agency computing centers into one building, sharing the same technology and the same set of managers.

“The idea marked the kind of sensible thinking promoted by the Pew Center on the States in a program to improve state government. Wednesday's negative audit came on the heels of a new Pew report card that gave Oregon's state government a C+ grade for overall effectiveness.”
(Oregon Can Do Better and Must, *The Oregonian*, Editorial, 7/18/2008 [online](#))

House Republicans Propose Strengthening Legislative Oversight

“House Republicans today presented a plan to create a new position within the Legislature to audit the performance of state government. On a party line vote, House Democrats voted to keep the reform in committee where it'll die for the 2007 session.

““The Legislature provides the money for state government, yet it lacks the tools to determine whether those dollars are being spent wisely,’ Rep. Krummel said. ‘Many states have professional auditors within their legislatures. It’s time we modernize Oregon’s Legislature by approving this important tool to hold state agencies accountable.’”

(News Release: House Republicans Propose Legislative Audits Office to Increase Accountability in State Government, House Republican Office, 6/20/2007 [online](#))