

Dear

Enclosed you will find reports by the States of Oregon and Tennessee for its citizens. These are the latest in a number of reports coordinated by AGA and its Citizen-Centric Government Reporting Program. They join municipalities such as Maricopa County, Virginia Beach and the District of Columbia in this effort.

We hope the State or City of XX will participate in this important endeavor and create a product that establishes your present commitment to transparency in government. It is our hope that this initiative will take off rapidly around the country, fulfilling AGA's commitment to enhancing government accountability.

We live in an era in which citizens are demanding to know more about the government's use of their tax dollars. The Citizen-Centric Government Reporting Program encourages governments to produce and publish annually "a state of the government" report that is no more than four pages long. We all know (or at least suspect) that government reports are too large and too complicated for citizens to want to read them .or to be able to understand them. The Citizens' report provides straightforward information in a compact and understandable way about the financial condition and performance of their government. AGA believes that this will bring citizens closer to their government and foster trust in their elected officials.

From those public entities who are participating in this program, we have been informed that the reports were not only welcome by their citizens but received rave reviews by them and the local media. Examples of some of the comments received were:

John J. Radford, State Controller, State of Oregon, stating, " This initiative is about honestly reporting back to our citizens and saying," This is what has been done well and this is where we are going to improve in the years to come. This state learned long ago that you can't move forward without its citizens weighing in, and we hope this report is a big step in making that process easier."

Drummond Kahn, Director of Audit Services, City of Portland stated, "For residents, this (Portland's Civic Citizen Report),is the equivalent of taking a look at your city's check book - where the money came from and where it went. And that informs a better civic discussion."

The League of Women Voters declared their support for AGA's Citizens Centric Report initiative in a February 2007 email to their leaders throughout the country.

We have also been informed that in utilizing AGA's guidelines there were no extra bureaucratic burdens to produce these reports. AGA will provide you with the guidance and materials you may need, including guidelines for content, a design template and report examples.

Sincerely,

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Enclosures