



Bob Ferguson  
**ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON**

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Dear Judge Schwab and Distinguished Members of the Sunshine Committee:

I am pleased to inform you that I have begun the process to select an Open Government Assistant Attorney General (AAG), and it is my intent that the position be full-time. Among other important responsibilities, this position will serve as one of my appointments to the Sunshine Committee and will provide substantive support to the work of the Committee.

Even though the Attorney General's Office has significant budget challenges, I have decided that an investment should be made in a full-time position that serves the public, media, and government agencies on open government issues, and my office will take the first step to make that investment.

I will be looking for an attorney to appoint as an Open Government AAG, who has strong analytical and communication skills, a thorough working knowledge of the Public Records Act and Open Public Meetings Act, demonstrated experience in developing and presenting trainings, a commitment to helping constituents resolve disputes, and dedication to serving the public's interest in open government.

Government is better when the public is informed and able to engage meaningfully in our democracy. Agencies better serve the people when they understand and follow open government laws. I believe most agencies strive to be responsive and transparent, and most people are well-intentioned in seeking participation in and information about government. However, misunderstanding of the law and miscommunications can lead to distrust and disputes. Through education and facilitation, the Open Government AAG will assist the public, media, and agencies in building trust and a state-wide culture of compliance with the laws and principles of open government. I will be working as quickly as possible to find a person with the right skills for this important position.

Thank you for your distinguished service on the Sunshine Committee and the vital role you play in advancing the principles of open government in this state. I look forward to working with you in the coming years.

Sincerely,

BOB FERGUSON  
Attorney General