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WASHINGTON COALITION FOR OPEN GOVERNMENT TO PRESENT KEY AWARD TO SENATOR JIM HONEYFORD SEPT. 14 IN OLYMPIA

Washington Coalition for Open Government

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The Washington Coalition for Open Government will present a Key Award to state senator Jim Honeyford of Sunnyside in recognition of his efforts to make the working of the Washington Legislature more transparent to citizens. The award will be presented on the Senate floor at a ceremony at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, September 14.

Honeyford, who has represented the 15th Legislative District in central Washington since 1995, has been a vocal critic of efforts by some in the legislative leadership to obscure the lawmaking process from the public. The unsavory practices include holding public hearings on bills without adequate notice, holding hearings on bills before they receive their first reading on the floor, holding hearings on bills with the text of the bill not available to the public prior to the hearing, voting on bills in committee the same day as their hearing, and holding hearings on bills that aren't even on the committee agenda. Fed up with these abuses during the 2011 session, Honeyford left a hearing in protest after a bill that wasn't on the agenda was considered by a committee.

In remarks he prepared for The Seattle Times regarding that protest, Sen. Honeyford said, "Washingtonians deserve better, which means proper notice of the time, location and topic of public hearings. That's the only way citizens will have a meaningful opportunity to review legislation, understand its effects and communicate with their legislators before votes are taken."

Sen. Honeyford was nominated for the award by WCOG President Toby Nixon and WCOG board member Jason Mercier, director of the Center for Government Reform at the Washington Policy Center.

The Washington Coalition for Open Government (WCOG) is an independent non-partisan non-profit organization founded in 2002 by a group of individuals representing organizations with a broad spectrum of opinions and backgrounds, all dedicated to the principles of strengthening the state's open government laws and protecting the public's access to government at all levels.

For more information, contact Washington Coalition for Open Government, 6351 Seaview Avenue NW, Seattle, WA 98107-2664 or on the web at [www.washingtoncog.org](http://www.washingtoncog.org) or call (206) 782-0393.

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