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Posted: Saturday, May 23, 2015 11:00 pm

I was grateful for your lead editorial last Sunday, “Why proposed public notice changes are bad for taxpayers,” because it affords me the opportunity of agreeing with your newspaper and your editor, Roger Ruthhart, on this issue.

Despite the fact that I’ve consider Rep. Joe Sosnowski a friend and someone with whom I largely agree on the issues, I think that his House Bill 261 is a mistake.

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Posted in Opinion/letters on Saturday, May 23, 2015 11:00 pm.

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In his response to Mr. Ruthhart’s Feb. 22nd column, Rep. Sosnowski, defended his bill by saying that the dispersal of information regarding taxes, public meetings, etc., was more economical, more efficiently done and more in line with modern methods when it appeared on a local government website rather than being published in the newspapers.

He said that money could be saved if we dispensed with the publication of this information in newspapers throughout the state. Those who support Sosnowski also argue that only a handful of people actually read public notices and that it is extravagant to spend so much publishing information read by so few. But, I would argue that it is essential to have the widest possible dispersal of information regarding what the government is doing if you hope to serve the public interest and maintain a democratic republic.

While I sympathize with efforts to cut this state’s bloated budget, this seems an instance of being penny-wise and pound foolish. Maximum transparency is not only in the public interest but also in the interest of having a loyal opposition.

Mark Lioen,

Rock Island

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The National Weather Service has issued a flash flood warning until 9:30 p.m. for Scott, Rock Island, Henry and Warren counties.

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Rock Island police searching for 14-year-old missing since Sunday [ow.ly/Om8Ax](#)

Show Summary

Dale Earnhardt Jr.

@DaleJr

41m

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