



ANDERSON ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING, INC.

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

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March 26, 2013

Representative Paul Holvey, Chair
Members of the Committee
Consumer Protection and Government Efficiency Committee

RE: Hearing on HB 3326

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee:

As an owner of a small consulting firm in rural Oregon, I oppose HB 3326. This bill is an attempt to circumvent the building code. It would allow building officials to act as engineers in consulting with developers and/or builders on code issues, or to simply ignore code issues. The bill would authorize building officials to act as engineers but would not come under the Oregon Revised Statutes that require licensing of engineers. This is a safety concern and is not in the best interest of the public.

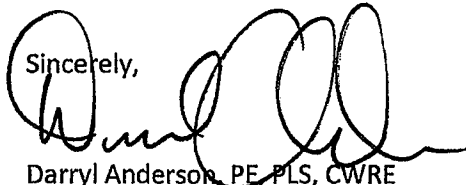
HB 3326 would be in direct conflict with my engineering practice, in Lakeview, and other practices throughout Eastern Oregon. Building officials would be able to charge for their services in direct competition with small firms providing these services in rural Oregon. Having professional engineering services in small communities is important for local economies. Maintaining a professional practice in a small community is important to rural Oregon. Small firms provide efficient services to local agencies and employ professional employees who contribute to the local economies. Competition from building officials providing consulting services would substantially damage my firm, possibly requiring layoffs.

The Building Code provides safe buildings for the public. If building officials are allowed to decide which parts of the code they wish to enforce, without being required to meet the standards set for licensed engineers, the public is potentially at risk. We cannot allow building officials to act in the capacity of an engineer without being qualified, or allow developers to pick which parts of the Building Code they wish to comply with. There are no qualifications to location, type of structure or anything else that would keep this entity from amending the code as they saw fit.

Anderson Engineering and Surveying, Inc. has been a strong community oriented firm for our 30 years of practice. We have made a difference in Eastern Oregon and understand rural Oregon issues. We are also a member of ACEC Oregon, and join them in opposition to this bill.

Please do not destroy another part of our Rural Economy. We ask you to oppose this bill.

Sincerely,



Darryl Anderson, PE, PLS, CWRE