



# ANDERSON ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING, INC.

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

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April 3, 2013

Senator Arnie Roblan, Chair Rural Communities and Economic Development  
Members of the Committee  
Rural Communities and Economic Development

**RE: Hearing on Senate Bill 582**

Dear Chair Roblan and Members of the Committee:

As an owner of a small engineering consulting firm in rural Oregon, I oppose Senate Bill 582. 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.

Senate Bill 582 would be in direct conflict with my engineering practice here 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. Calculations and sizing of components falls to professionals licensed to do this type of work. Even type U structures the proposed bill refers to, require engineering in many cases. For example retaining walls, tanks, towers are all type U structures and can be very dangerous to the public if not properly designed for local conditions and the seismic conditions we have in eastern Oregon. A retaining wall next to a driveway or any development would be a hazard to the public if not designed properly. These type of structures need to be designed by a licensed professional that has a knowledge of soils, structural mechanics and a knowledge of the area.

Having professional engineering services in small communities is important for local economies. Maintaining a professional practice in a small rural community is not easy. Small firms provide efficient services to local agencies and private concerns, as well as employ professional employees who contribute to the local economies. Competition from building officials providing consulting services would substantially damage my firm, possibly requiring layoffs. Designing structural components for residences and type U structures is a portion of my business here in Lakeview.

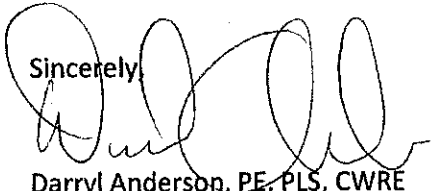
The Building Code provides safe buildings for the public. If building officials are allowed to decide which parts of the code they wish to enforce, without being required to meet the standards set for licensed engineers, the public is at risk. We cannot allow building officials to act in the capacity of an engineer without being qualified, or allow developers and builders to pick which parts of the Building Code they wish to comply with.

Anderson Engineering and Surveying, Inc. has been a strong community oriented firm in our 30 years of practice. Our firm provides many services to the community of Lakeview and support community projects. Our firm has donated our services on local projects that have included building design, and consultation to the local schools and other community groups working to make Lakeview a better place

to live. Having a professional firm in a small rural town is a great benefit for the community. We have made a difference in Eastern Oregon and understand rural Oregon issues. We are also a member of ACEC Oregon, the Professional Engineers of 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