

Sen Close

From: Stutzman, Gary <gary.stutzman@cityofalbany.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 04, 2013 10:13 AM
To: Sen Close
Cc: Smith, Marilyn; Hansen, Heather
Subject: Bill 582 Sections 5-10 gut and stuff.

Dear Betsy,

As Building Official and Manager of the Albany Building Division I am voicing our official request that you consider **not passing** this bill. At face value there may be certain areas of the state that it may be intended for or that might need the States help in administering a building inspection program. At first glance it may also look appealing to resolve issues within certain jurisdictions. This is not the case state wide and if this bill passes, leaves all of the smaller jurisdictions like Albany or other Mid-valley jurisdictions with greater financial uncertainty in working through our own budgets. The bill leaves it open for BCD to look for the low hanging fruit and just coming in and taking over for a particular project to basically gain additional revenues. As the bill is written, it is at State Building Codes Division (BCD's) sole discretion and cannot be appealed by the local jurisdiction.

If you do chose to pass this bill, please make sure the individual county or municipal building division has a say whether or not the state can take over any project. The projects that the state would want are exactly the ones that smaller jurisdictions survive on. One or two large projects a year or every other year or lack of, can mean financial ruin or financial health for our departments.

This money-grab by BCD is all cloaked in the disguise of being in the best interest of the state for construction-related development activities to proceed in a manner that is as quick and efficient as practicable. BCD feels the State control of building code administration and enforcement is most flexible and most responsive. They of course need money and sufficient staff to provide this service. Right now they have neither. The bill proposes to give the state workers first choice as to any available work. That includes the local level normally filled by City workers in our case.

The City of Albany staff take pride in providing excellent, efficient, quality service to our customers. Knowing our customers needs, knowing the land use issues, infrastructure necessary, fire access and water issues, and a having great qualified staff in all departments, make us the best possible choice to administer our own building inspection program by helping our customers through all of the issues surrounding any project large or small. A local project administered through BCD out of Salem will never be an appropriate solution.

We hope you can see to vote no.
Thanks.

Gary Stutzman
Building Official
City of Albany
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