

March 30, 2013

Dear Senator Beyers,

My name is John Bryant and I've been a State Licensed and Certified Residential Appraiser in the Mid-Willamette Valley area for 19 years. While I have never written to a legislator before, I felt compelled to do so after I learned about Senate Bills 617 and 618.

My understanding after reading the bills is that someone in the Legislature thinks there is a problem at the Appraiser Certification and Licensure Board that needs to be fixed. I strongly disagree.

Throughout my career as an appraiser I have talked with many appraisers, from various parts of the state, mostly by attending appraisal conferences and continuing education seminars. I can tell you that the vast majority of working appraisers in this state respect and appreciate the Board and the job they do, especially regarding how they treat appraisers when processing complaints.

While I have never been the subject of an allegation for violations of professional appraisal standards, I have known a number of appraisers that have been. Everyone one of them was unhappy because no one likes to be disciplined, but none of them ever complained about the Board or its staff not being fair and objective. Most of them indicated that the experience benefited them professionally.

As professionals, appraisers know and understand that fair and effective enforcement of ethics, competency and appraisal standards of practice benefits the appraisal profession and the general public. Honestly, we don't feel like anything at the Appraiser Board is broken that needs fixing.

Perhaps of greater concern in the potential cost of SB 617 and 618 in terms of how it affects our cost of staying in business (license fees). You may not be aware but significant changes have occurred recently in our profession that have lowered our appraisal fees while the level of work required for each appraisal has increased. We are getting squeezed from both ends towards the middle. As a result, many good appraisers have exited the profession because they cannot afford to stay in business. The cost of doing business goes up, up and up and our pay goes down, down, down.

I don't know much about exactly how the political process works, but I do have faith that citizen lawmakers like you do take heed to the opinions of regular citizens like me.

Respectfully,

John Bryant  
Salem, Oregon