



March 20, 2013

Members of the Oregon State Legislative Assembly,

The National Electrical Contractors Association Oregon Pacific-Cascade Chapter represents over 50 small businesses in the electrical field. Our electrical contractors are excellent corporate citizens. Every contractor is licensed, bonded, insured, and provides defined benefit pension plans to our workers and health care benefits for their families. Every member of NECA is a small business providing family-wage jobs to their employees. To put it simply, our contractors believe in conducting business the right way.

With the recent wave of foreclosures, many properties have been transferred to banking and property management companies. Due to a loophole in current statutes, the banks and their real estate agents are able to hire unlicensed businesses and individuals to renovate homes. This practice has become all too common and leads to dangerous and costly defects in homes that are bought “as is” by unsuspecting purchasers. HB 2524 would close the loophole, requiring banks and their agents to use licensed professional contractors, like everyone else in the community, to make repairs and renovations.

The state requires licensure in order to perform defined crafts for a reason: amateur contractors frequently make dangerous mistakes. For certain crafts, such as electrical work, the state has recognized that the work should be performed by professionals.

NECA would like to express our strong support for HB 2524, which removes some exemptions for licenses required by the Construction Contractors Board, requiring financial and real estate businesses to use licensed contractors to perform work that is under the authority of the CCB and ORS 701. HB 2524 is an important reform to current statutory regulations that will protect purchasers of “as is” properties from dangerous and costly defects.

We urge your support for HB 2524.

Sincerely,

Pat Maloney
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