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Serving Malheur County

February 5, 2015

To: Senate Committee on Business and Transportation

Re: State of Oregon E-Permitting Program

This letter is a strong effort to encourage your committee to help preserve the funding for the Building Code Division's e-permitting system now in place here in Malheur County and many other jurisdictions across our State as well. The program has proven itself to be very helpful, not only by allowing contractors to purchase permit on a 24 – 7 basis, but also the tracking of the permits and record keeping. This program provides us with a system to refer back to archival information long after the project has been completed. It is a very useful tool that can be used to accurately track a current project and be used over and over to refer to the past construction of projects when a client wishes to construct an addition or do a remodel. Often having that information can really help speed the permit process along. Also, the easily accessed information is very helpful to code and other governmental officials when making determinations relating to use and occupancy. The program is used to track revenue by specialty, and can give a clear picture of jurisdiction performance by analysis of the permits, such as number of permits issued, number of inspections performed, and number of projects completed.

The use of this system will only continue to improve the program's performance as the database continues to develop. We are only now realizing this program's true potential through its continued use. It is a huge benefit to the State when it comes to tracking surcharge fees collected on behalf of the State.

This is an example of a program working well and Malheur County wishes to continue this effort.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Ruddell
Building Official
Malheur County, Oregon