



**City of Portland, Oregon**  
**Bureau of Development Services**  
**Office of the Director**

FROM CONCEPT TO CONSTRUCTION

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February 18, 2015

The Honorable Lee Beyer, Chair  
Senate Business and Transportation Committee  
900 Court Street, NE, Hearing Room B  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Subject: Language in SB 133

Dear Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee:

I write to express support for the inclusion of explicit language in SB 133 as to the state electronic permitting system's voluntary nature.

The City of Portland's Bureau of Development Service is supportive of the state electronic permitting system and recognizes that it serves many municipalities, especially smaller, rural jurisdictions. However, the same system is not appropriate for all communities due to the variety of local conditions and varying complexity of projects. Having the correct tool for the work and "right-sizing" the system to the needs of a jurisdiction is best done by the stakeholders in the jurisdiction.

The City of Portland has made a significant investment in its own electronic permitting system to meet the City's specific needs and to best serve its customers. The City's interest is in providing an effective and efficient electronic permitting system, as well as protecting this investment and in ensuring its long-term viability. The stated assurance that "nonparticipation in the [state] system" will not be grounds for revocation or other disciplinary actions furthers that goal. Additionally, we believe that this language prevents local governments from being required to expend local dollars to make their systems, existing and future, compatible with the state system. This protection and stability are critically important for municipalities, like Portland, undertaking the effort to build local systems that serve the specific needs of their communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input in this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Scarlett".

Paul L. Scarlett, Director  
Bureau of Development Services  
City of Portland

- cc. Dora Perry, Commissioner Fritz's Office  
Andy Peterson, BDS Plan Review & Permitting Services Manager  
Terry Whitehill, BDS Plan Review Manager  
Nancy Thorington, BDS Code & Policy Analyst  
Elizabeth Edwards, Government Relations