

As a Principal Broker of over 55 brokers in the Columbia River Gorge, we have been heavily impacted by what we have coined "Appraisal Extortion" in our markets. We operate in Hood River, Wasco, Sherman, Klickitat and Skamania counties and in 2016 we started to see a trend of inflated appraisal fees and 30-90 day wait times due to the "rural nature of our market". We did not suddenly become "rural" in 2016 and the majority of appraisers taking the assignments, **live** in our markets. We have also heard from appraisers when they call to schedule, "I am booked out 45 days" but when the agent pushes, suddenly for double the fee, they now have an opening in 7 days. As a result of this ongoing behavior, we've had multiple transactions, over the past year fail, as a direct result of "Appraiser Extortion".

**Extortion** (also called **shakedown**, **outwrestling**, and **exaction**) is a [criminal offense](#) of obtaining money, property, or services from an individual or institution, through [coercion](#).

Regards,

Kim

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