

Chair Beyer, Members of the Committee my name is Vince Porter and I'm a lobbyist for Strategies 360. We represent the Recreation Vehicle Industry Association. RVIA is the national trade association representing recreation vehicle (RV) manufacturers and their component parts suppliers who together build more than 98 percent of all RVs produced in the U.S. The RVIA is also responsible for enforcing the standards for Recreation Vehicles and Park Model RVs as set forth by the National Fire Protection Association and the American National Standard Institute.

I am here to testify in support of Senate Bill 753. Senate Bill 753 will allow our local manufacturers of RVs and Park Model RVs to remain competitive and retain the business they have worked hard to grow over the past few years. Simply put, if the Building Code Division was to begin enforcement of the electrician and plumbing licensing requirements, Oregon would be the only state in the country that would such licensing requirements and it would put our local businesses at a competitive disadvantage.

Worse yet, enforcing the licensing requirements would change nothing in Oregon other than a loss of business. Out of state businesses would still not be required to use licensed electricians and plumbers so we would see no change in the products sold and sourced in Oregon. We would just know that they were not built in Oregon with Oregon labor.

RVIA is also in support of the dash 1 amendments which would further provide clarity on the definition of Park Model RVs. As you may know, there is no current definition of Park Model RVs in statute and this amendment would codify a definition of park model RVs. You will hear from several Oregon businesses today who manufacture RVs and Park Models. Currently, the RVIA inspects the production facilities and vehicles of 11 companies around Oregon. All of these companies are in smaller towns like Albany, Harrisburg, Creswell, Pendleton and Woodburn, where their impact on the local economy is significant. You will hear from a few of those companies today and they will explain the high level of quality that goes into their manufacturing process which makes the licensing requirements redundant and over burdensome. Many of these companies have multiple operations in multiple states. I urge you to vote in favor of SB 753 so we can make sure they continue to choose Oregon as a place to do business.