

CITY OF NEWPORT
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mombetsu, japan, sister city

April 3, 2017

The Honorable Paul Holvey, Chair
House Committee On Business and Labor
900 Court St. NE, H-277,
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Testimony on HB 2907

Chair Holvey,

It has been brought to our attention that on April 5, 2017 your committee will be conducting a hearing on the above referenced bill and we would respectfully request that you accept this letter **in support** of the legislation, such letter having been duly adopted by the Newport City Council at its April 3, 2017 meeting.

The bill corrects a flaw in the building code statutes that prevents local jurisdictions from hiring third-party contractors with "specialized building inspector" certifications. Individuals that possess these types of certifications are able to perform inspections on residential and small-scale commercial projects appropriate to the type of certification that they hold.

Newport is fortunate to employ one full-time building official who is certified to perform a broad range of inspections; however, he is one individual. We rely heavily on third-party contractors to provide plan review and inspection services when our building official is out of the office or otherwise unavailable. This ensures that we can provide reliable and timely service to our development community. Unfortunately, under the existing statutes, this means that the third-party inspectors must possess "A-Level" certifications, which demand a higher hourly rate and are often not needed for the job at hand. A-Level inspectors are also in short supply statewide, and when they leave a third-party contractor, it may take a while before they can be replaced. This puts local governments that rely on that contractor in a position where they have to scramble to find another party to perform the inspections.

The changes proposed with this bill will give local governments additional options for meeting their responsibility to ensure that new construction is occurring in a manner that satisfies building codes. This is critical for the safety of the general public, and warrants your approval.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sandra Roumagoux". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Sandra Roumagoux, Mayor
City of Newport
On Behalf of the Newport City Council

xc: Sen. Arnie Roblan
Rep. David Gomberg