

House Business and Labor Committee  
April 5, 2017

**RE: Support of House Bill 2907**

Good Afternoon Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Building Officials Association (OBOA) represents more than 1,000 building officials and personnel throughout the state. Its members include a wide range of building officials, both in large, metropolitan cities and counties, as well as small, rural jurisdictions and includes third-party building inspectors.



As you know, Oregon has a statewide building code, adopted by the State Building Codes Division, which establishes uniform safety and energy standards for all residential and commercial buildings throughout the state. In most jurisdictions, the statewide code is administered and enforced by local city or county building departments. In jurisdictions where neither a city, nor a county assume these responsibilities, the State Building Codes Division must do so.

It is our understanding that in 2013, legislation limited the ability for third-party building inspectors to perform work in relation to the specialty codes. OBOA believes that third-party building inspectors serve an important function to local building officials that have unforeseen increases in workload or unexpected staffing changes by helping maintain internal operation standards within a jurisdiction and most importantly, maintain customer service delivery needs.

We believe the change made to the definition of “Specialized Building Inspector” in 2013 resulted in an unintended consequence that limits the ability of these third-party building inspectors to perform certain work. Should a local building official have the need for third-party building inspectors, it is our understanding that the proposed language in House Bill 2907 will result in a third-party “specialized building inspector” being able to perform the same level of work as a jurisdictional “specialized building inspector.”

OBOA urges you to support House Bill 2907 and remedy the unintended consequence as a result of the 2013 legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration of House Bill 2907.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric Schmidt', is positioned above the typed name and title.

Eric Schmidt, SE CBO  
Chair, Legislative Committee  
Oregon Building Officials Association  
503-618-2877