

NORTHWEST CODE  
PROFESSIONALS



144 E 14th Avenue  
Eugene, OR 97401

April 5, 2017

House Committee on Business and Labor  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Voting Representatives:

I'm writing to assert my support for House Bill 2907 alongside my colleagues and other small business representatives giving testimony in the session scheduled for today.

I am the office manager of The Building Department LLC dba Northwest Code Professionals, a small business established in 2000 as a subsidiary of Mortier Engineering (est. 1973) when our founder, Emile Mortier, recognized the need for inspection and plan review assistance in smaller counties and cities. Northwest Code Professionals relies on the many Oregon jurisdictions that contract with it for building department services. Our clients, in turn, rely on us because they are small, rural, or their volume of work exceeds their own capacities.

When I came onboard with NWCP, I brought with me the philosophy of equal opportunity and of breaking down discriminatory barriers or stereotypes that would prevent any one person from achieving their career goals. This is evident in our recent team addition of two bright young women with ambitions to follow in the footsteps of their mentor inspectors. I'm compelled to voice my support in lawmaking that will afford them fair opportunity within our trade.

The current legislation that House Bill 2907 aims to amend is written in a way that unintentionally discriminates against equally qualified individuals not employed by a municipality, but with whom could be contracted with to provide identical services. The wording that disqualifies our certified inspectors threatens the symbiotic relationship we have with our clients, one that if broken, would not benefit either party. The amended verbiage proposed in House Bill 2907 corrects this discriminatory oversight. For this reason, among others that will be presented by my colleagues, I implore you to vote yes to pass House Bill 2907. The positive impact will be greatly felt by small third party businesses and jurisdictions alike.

Respectfully,

Kellie Mortier  
Office Manager