

Chair Holvey, Vice Chairs Bynum and Baretto, members of the committee.

My name is Dan Torres and I am with Oregon AFSCME. We represent roughly 25,000 workers including workers at the Building Code Division. I am submitting testimony today in opposition of HB 2907.

We represent the hard working members of the Building Codes Division who work every day to make sure that our state building codes are applied in a fast, efficient and safe manor. The Building Codes Division used to have staff of over 200 people performing inspections, plan review and oversight of the state building codes. Now they are doing the work with roughly 130 staff and have the demand and resources to support more inspectors. Their funding is completely other funds and those funds can only be used for the enforcement of building codes.

This session we are advocating for more inspectors and plan reviewers to provide support to local municipalities through official state inspectors. These state inspectors are experts in application and review and have the specialized expertise to handle more complicated projects like the Cross Laminated Timber projects that are new and innovative.

We would like to see more support for our folks at the building codes division who are doing great work but don't have the ability to grow with demand. We have also heard a number stories from industry about bad actors in the private third party industry and when it comes to our building codes and safety, it is crucial we are sure that the inspections and reviews are being held to the highest standard. The workers at the building codes division have that knowledge and expertise and, given more resources, can continue to do that great work,

It is for these reasons that Oregon AFSCME encourages you to oppose House Bill 2907.