



City of Portland, Oregon
Bureau of Development Services
Office of the Director
FROM CONCEPT TO CONSTRUCTION

Chloe Eudaly, Commissioner
Paul L. Scarlett, Director
Phone: (503) 823-7308
Fax: (503) 823-7250
TTY: (503) 823-6868
www.portlandoregon.gov/bds

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Senator Dembrow, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
900 Court Street, NE, Hearing Room C
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 871

Dear Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

The City of Portland supports SB 871 as a means of addressing air quality issues related to residential demolition activities. Neighbors of houses being demolished in Portland consistently raise health concerns regarding asbestos and lead-based paint dust that is generated during these demolitions. The Portland Bureau of Development Services (BDS) reviews and approves residential demolition applications and issues building permits for the replacement structures. DEQ has regulatory authority over asbestos abatement for demolitions. SB 871 would facilitate improved coordination between local permitting for demolitions and state regulation of asbestos.

The Legislature previously adopted regulations requiring that asbestos surveys for residential demolitions be provided to DEQ. BDS has developed a comprehensive website that provides information to developers and community members about residential demolitions. With the authority proposed in SB 871, the City of Portland could consider making asbestos documentation available online to Portland residents. Making that documentation available for review prior to demolitions would go a long way in giving neighbors assurance that they will not be exposed to hazardous materials from these demolitions.

With respect to lead-based paint, there is a gap in the federal regulatory system regarding lead-based paint in residential demolitions. This bill would allow local jurisdictions to require a plan for containing lead-based paint particles on demolition sites as part of permit for demolitions.

The City of Portland supports the additional local tools proposed in SB 871 to promote improved air quality. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Paul L. Scarlett, Director
Bureau of Development Services