



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

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Senator Lew Frederick, Co-Chair
Representative Brad Witt, Co-Chair
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

Re: SB 871-A with -A6 Amendment

Dear Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair Witt, and Members of the Subcommittee:

The City of Portland supports SB 871-A with the proposed -A6 amendment 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. SB 871-A with the -A6 amendment would facilitate improved coordination between local permitting for demolitions and state regulation of asbestos by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and lead by the Oregon Health Authority.

The Legislature previously enacted 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-A with the -A6 amendment, the City of Portland could consider making asbestos documentation available online to Portland residents. Making that documentation easily accessible prior to demolitions would significantly improve the information available to members of the public.

With respect to lead-based paint, there is a gap in the federal regulatory system regarding residential demolitions. This bill would address that gap by requiring contractors demolishing pre-1978 homes to be certified in handling of lead-based paint and to use best practices as developed by the Oregon Health Authority and other key stakeholders on containing lead dust during residential demolitions as part of the permit requirements.

The City of Portland supports the additional local tools to promote improved air quality proposed in SB 871-A with the -A6 amendments. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Esau, Interim Director
Bureau of Development Services