From: The Sandies
To: JWMNR Exhibits
Subject: SB871 Testimony
Date: Thursday, June 29, 2017 10:03:57 AM

As I see on amended agenda, SB871 is no longer on today's schedule. I am submitting my testimony in hope's it is soon re-added to Committee's agenda.

SB871 Testimony before Joint Sub-committee on Natural Resources
June 29, 2017 (initial schedule)

By John Sandie, resident of NE Portland and member of United Neighborhoods for Reform

As amended, SB871 will finally remove the often heard excuse by city employees that they don't have authority to effectively manage residential demolitions in spite of the potential harm to public through exposure to hazardous materials; most notably, asbestos and lead based dust.

However, as written, this bill just opens the door and the onus again falls on local residents to remain vigilant and active to assure those in power follow these recommendations.

In addition, through this bill the Oregon Health Authority has a mandate and ultimate authority to establish best practices for lead based paint control during demolitions. Since cities cannot enact procedures deemed more onerous than the OHA's recommended practices, it is imperative that this be given high priority by OHA. Over the last ten years, multiple studies have clearly demonstrated that proper abatement and adequate wetting, coupled with deconstruction, to be the most effective means of limiting risk to the public during demolitions. Hopefully, OHA will take this information under serious consideration.

In closing, while I am extremely grateful for the consistent support of this bill's sponsors and their steadfastness not to allow its language to be watered down and weakened by opposition efforts; I need to also express some frustration that it has taken three years of effort to reach this point. Recently we have seen too many cases, both locally and nationally, where individuals in positions of responsibility have abdicated or shown apathy to their sworn oaths to protect the public from harm; and we know how tragically some of these situations have turned out.

So for residential demolitions, let's get this right! Pass this bill and get those best practices in use as soon as possible.

Thank you.