



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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February 14, 2017

Chair Paul Holvey
Vice-Chair Greg Barreto
House Committee on Business and Labor
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Testimony of the City of Salem in Opposition of House Bill 2164

Dear Chair Paul Holvey, Vice-Chair Greg Barreto, and Members of the Committee,

The City of Salem opposes HB 2164, which would require cities to use the State's electronic building permitting system unless the State Department of Consumer and Business Services approved a city's local system. If passed, HB 2164 would negatively impact our community and economic development in Salem by adding time and complication to our permitting process. This would result in additional cost to the development community.

The City of Salem currently uses, and has made significant investments in, its own comprehensive electronic permitting system, which integrates building, public works, planning, fire, and other functions. The system is tailored to the specific needs of both the City and Salem customers, and HB 2164 provides no assurances that the State Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS) would improve their software to integrate all of the departments and divisions similar to what is used by the City of Salem. HB 2164 also provides no assurances that DCBS would approve the City of Salem's existing system.

If required to use the State's electronic building permitting system, the City of Salem would no longer be able to provide the same level of functionality and streamlined service to Salem residents and businesses. Switching to the State's system would also cost the City of Salem approximately \$1.7 to \$2.9 million.

In addition, the City of Salem generally opposes legislation that creates unfunded state mandates and preempts our local authority. The City of Salem urges you to oppose HB 2164.

Sincerely,

Glenn Gross
Community Development Director

cc: Steve Powers, City Manager
Kacey Duncan, Deputy City Manager