



City of King City

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Chair Holvey
House Business and Labor Committee
900 Court Street
Salem OR 97301

Dear Chair Holvey and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB 4086 as it relates to Building Codes and issues that directly affect our City.

I cannot support HB 4086 in its current form. By requiring the Building Official who is charged with administrative and technical enforcement of all adopted building codes to be an employee of the jurisdiction, the bill creates the same issue, though much larger and negatively impactful, the bill tries to correct for Specialized Inspectors. As a small jurisdiction, we rely on the expertise of certified inspectors and plans examiners to provide efficient professional service to our citizens. We do this through a model that is outlined in state law and allows us to utilize contracted building department services on the frequency and extent that our community needs those services. A full time or even part time building official is an unnecessary six figure expense or nearly a fifth of our Budget. Additionally, as a small jurisdiction within the Metro UGB, we don't have direct control over our Urban Growth Boundary and therefore cannot ensure continued employment for a Building Official. Contracting with a third party allows us to keep permit fees low, promoting growth and tailoring the service to our community just as many jurisdictions do with engineers, attorneys, and other professional services.

We would prefer the language in HB 4086, to be narrowed to address only the issue of allowing a specialized building inspector to be an employee of either a public or private entity to ensure parity in the law. I believe that issue has been thoroughly discussed both during the last long legislative session and the ensuing interim and is now ready for passage during this short session.

I believe the remaining text in the bill that would require a Building Official to be an employee of a municipality, and prohibit a municipality from continuing to utilize contracted Building Official services as outlined by current state law should be struck from the bill as it could jeopardize the viability and local control of our entire inspection program.

Therefore, I ask that the focus in 2018 and this bill be narrowed to creating parity in the law as it relates to specialized inspectors in private and public entities. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this very important issue.

Kind Regards,

Michael J Weston II, MPA
King City, OR