



Associated Builders and Contractors – Pacific Northwest Chapter



International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers – Local 48



National Electrical Contractors Association



Independent Electrical Contractors Association



Plumbing & Mechanical Contractors Association – Oregon



Associated Wall and Ceiling Contractors of Oregon and S.W. Washington, Inc.



Iron Workers – Local 29



Oregon Building Trades Council



Oregon State Association of Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors



AFSCME – Council 75



Sheet Metal Workers – Local 16



Oregon Home Builders Association



International Union of Operating Engineers – Local 701



United Association of Plumbers & Steamfitters – Local 290



Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors – Columbia Chapter

## OREGON’S CONSTRUCTION BUSINESSES AND LABOR ORGANIZATIONS

February 13, 2018

Re: HB 4086(-2)

Dear Chair Holvey and members of the House Committee on Business and Labor:

As the contractors and workers who are the primary customers of building departments across the state, we appreciate the committee’s efforts to address the role and responsibilities of building officials and inspectors.

**It is incredibly important for Oregon’s construction economy that building departments offer efficient and accountable services.** When an issue arises, industry stakeholders need to know that the person resolving disputes (building official/head inspector) has the training and expertise to make consistent and fair technical decisions. Those decisions can have serious consequences for safety and for cost.

**HB 4086(-2) would address the needs of the construction industry** by requiring that a building official and a head inspector (or a building official who is also head inspector) be employed directly by a municipality. This will ensure that the building official making decisions on behalf of the building department is able to make informed, accountable decisions.

HB 4086(-2) specifically addresses the obligation of building departments to have the resources and methods necessary to ensure **proper enforcement of state building code requirements and state licensing requirements.** Ensuring that work is performed by properly licensed individuals is important to businesses and consumers. The amendments in the (-2) will provide consistent, robust, statewide enforcement by making sure everyone plays by the same rules. In addition, knowing that the building official and head inspector would be directly employed by the municipality ensures that we can address our concerns directly with the government agency enforcing the code and licensing requirements on behalf of the state.

**HB 4086(-2) creates a path to smoothly transition** to a new method of delivering inspection services. Thank you for your work on this issue.

Sincerely,

The businesses and labor organizations that drive Oregon’s construction industry