

## CITY of REEDSPORT

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February 20, 2019

House Committee on Rules  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee,

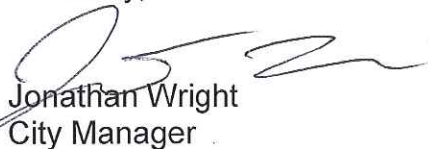
The City of Reedsport is opposed to HB 2420. We are a rural community on the south coast that has been economically devastated by the loss of the timber industry and the only community in Douglas County in full tax compression. This community is geographically isolated from the rest of the County and over three hours round trip from Roseburg, the County seat. The City's ongoing poor economic position does not allow us to hire a building official or even share one for that matter.

The City Currently contracts with a third party building inspection service where we are able to manage our own permits, control our own permit cost, and are able to resolve issues directly with our constituents. More importantly, we only pay for the services that we use. This takes away the funding liability for the City but still allowing full control over our processes.

One of the things we have noted over the years of working with new businesses and manufacturers is that time is of the essence. These opportunities can leave as fast as they arrive if permitting is perceived as a problem. Currently, we are able to get plan review and permits issued in less than a week. This is something that would normally take weeks or even months at the County. Our efficiency and ability to work directly with businesses here is the very reason that we have the number of new businesses moving to this area and the very reason that our economic turnaround finally seems likely.

We respectfully request that you do not pass this bill and force the State Building Codes Division to come up with a bill that is less harmful to rural communities.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Wright  
City Manager