



City of Aurora

FOUNDED IN 1856
"National Historic Site"

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

Rep. Paul Holvey, Chair
Rep. Carl Wilson, Vice-Chair
Rep. Jennifer Williamson, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Rules
900 Court St NE, Room 453
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Opposition to House Bill 2420

Dear Chair Holvey, Vice-Chairs Wilson and Williamson and Committee Members,

The City of Aurora wishes to express its firm opposition to House Bill 2420.

Like many smaller cities throughout Oregon, Aurora contracts with a private, third-party company to provide building inspection services. The city also contracts for many other critical local services we provide, including engineering, land-use planning and law enforcement.

Contracting out for those services enables the city to be responsive to customers' needs while respecting the limits of its tax and funding bases. The requirement that municipal building officials be municipal employees would create a financial burden that would make it impossible to fund many of the other services required by our residents.

Furthermore, limiting intergovernmental agreements to provide those services to no more than three entities is arbitrary and also does not provide relief from these mandates. Restricting the ability of small, local governments to maintain the autonomy of their building programs will only serve to exacerbate the affordable housing crisis that is causing undue hardship for working families all throughout Oregon. It will also cripple the ability of small, rural cities to develop and broaden their economies. Many of the cities that rely on these third-party services are experiencing growth and investment for the first time in many years. The passage of HB 2420 would undoubtedly jeopardize those opportunities.

These kinds of programs have operated effectively in Oregon's small cities for over 40 years and can continue to do so if they are allowed. The City would urge the committee and its members to consider these factors and reject the passage of HB 2420.

Sincerely,

Kris Sallee

Mayor, City of Aurora