



CITY OF CLATSKANIE

April 5, 2019

Dear Members of the Committee:

This letter is to request that HB 2420 **not** be considered **unless it is amended** to allow jurisdictions to continue to use 3rd party vendors as Building Officials. Currently, the City of Clatskanie uses a 3rd party vendor to conduct our building inspections, plan reviews, and they serve as our Building Official. The use of a 3rd party vendor is critical for us, as we are only a staff of 4 people. Burdening us with a mandatory Building Official, as an employee, is untenable.

We have been using our current 3rd party vendor for over 10 years. The system, as it is currently configured, works and works well. We have oversight of the vendor as our system has several layers of review prior to permits being issued. The level of oversight is not burdensome and is efficient for us.

A brief history of why we use a 3rd party vendor: We contracted with a 3rd party for customer service sake. The county, was taking months for even the simplest of inspections and even longer for plan reviews. The City Council at the time did the research and decided to go the route of a 3rd party. The results have been an unqualified success. Plan reviews now take about a week, not months, and inspections can be scheduled to happen...and are completed...within days.

I remind the committee that small cities like mine use 3rd party vendors for many services. These include planning, city attorney, and various other contractors who fill the void we cannot because of our size. And all of these contracted services have our oversight.

Again, please **do not** consider HB 2420 **unless it is amended** to allow us to continue to use the 3rd party Building Official as we have been doing for a decade. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "GK", written over a horizontal line.

Greg Hinkelman
City Manager, Clatskanie