

Members of the House Committee on Rules:

While the League continues to assert that there is not a requirement that any of the building officials or inspectors be a direct employee of the city if there is sufficient oversight over the third party, we have not had sufficient time to fully respond to the memorandum that was shared with committee yesterday. We have raised some of these issues with the Building Codes Division and their DOJ attorney, but had not heard anything further from them. In addition, there were statements that were attributed to me that purport to explain how all of the impacted programs are run. However, It is my belief that they take my points and statements out of context or make the assertion that the statement applies to all of the impacted programs, but in fact the anecdotes cited relate to some programs. Generally, the purpose and intent of my comments both in the work group and in the meeting with BCD and its attorney were to show that our programs are run differently from city to city, but that at their core there is a shared commonality that cities provide oversight of the work done by the contractors through their contracts and accountability if complaints are received.

The League remains concerned that the passage of HB 4086 will impact not only the few city programs that have relied on contractual relationships to have a locally run program but all of the local programs that rely on the third party inspection services to provide overflow or temporary assistance while a new employee is hired. In addition, it is unclear what the impact will be to the already overburdened counties that will have to absorb the city programs that are shuttered because they cannot afford to have multiple contracts to cover part time work. At a minimum we expect it will delay response rates – the primary reason these smaller cities took on local programs – and slow construction in these smaller jurisdictions which will hamper both economic development and housing construction.

Given that the Governor has been looking for a means of getting more contractors available to provide construction options outside the Willamette Valley (HB 4144), we are afraid that HB 4086 will create a new bottle neck because of the scarcity of inspectors that currently exists will be exacerbated.

I appreciate your consideration of these issues.

Thanks,
Erin Doyle



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