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CORVALLIS
ENHANCING COMMUNITY LIVABILITY

March 9, 2017

David Flemings
Clair Company
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RE: House Bill 2907 Third-Party Inspection agencies

In response to our previous conversation, the City of Corvallis establishes and maintains staffing levels that are methodically developed and based on statistical building trends and current construction activity. Determining an optimal staffing level for our operations can be extremely challenging, as the types and number of construction projects can fluctuate dramatically each year. As a result, the City maintains lean staffing numbers to ensure the Division can financial retain and support our full-time employees. Development Services also maintains an ambitious work program that strives to deliver timely and efficient inspection and plan review services to our customers. While we are able to fulfill our service delivery objectives a majority of the time, the City relies on critical third-party services during unexpected spikes in the workload, or unexpected absences. Utilizing third-party contract services have enabled the City to meet our plan review and inspection objectives without having to add additional full-time staff the Division could not financially support on a long-term basis. Additionally, having third-party inspectors that are qualified and able to perform the full breadth of inspection services allows the City to continue to enter into contract services with the assurance these agencies are able to provide needed inspection services.

We support the proposed language change contained in House Bill 2907, as this change would eliminate the current double standard and align the standards and qualifications for "Specialized Building Inspectors" that work directly for a municipality or used by a municipality through a contract with a third-party inspection agency.

Sincerely,

Greg Hall, Building Official