



Home of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge

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**City Manager**  
Joseph Gall, ICMA-CM

February 19, 2019

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

**RE: Testimony regarding House Bill 2420**

Dear Chair Holvey and members of the Committee:

As Community Development Director for the City of Sherwood, I am writing to express my concern about HB 2420 as it is currently written. The City of Sherwood has a small building department comprised of a full-time Building Official and two full-time permit technicians. The Building Official does a herculean amount of work, managing the department, budget and doing all of the building inspections for our growing city of just under 20,000. The City has an agreement with Washington County to do the plumbing inspections and the County has authority to issue and inspect electrical permits.

With tight budgets and uncertain economic conditions, the City utilizes a contract plan reviewer to conduct the plan reviews for non-residential buildings. In any given year, the building department does not bring in the funds or has the workload that would be necessary to fund a full time qualified plan reviewer. While we have not had the need recently, we anticipate the need, and are setting up infrastructure, to have on-call building inspectors as well.

Sherwood is very concerned that HB 2420 could limit the ability of the City of Sherwood and others similar to us, to contract with 3<sup>rd</sup> party plan reviewers and inspectors. It is unclear from the reading of the bill whether our use of contracted plan reviewers and inspectors would be prohibited if this bill were to pass. Even if Sherwood is not directly impacted because we have a full time Building Official, we are still concerned for smaller organizations with smaller budgets that may not have that financial luxury. We also believe that this bill oversteps our home rule authority and is not solving a problem that actually exists.

Sherwood supports any legislation that assures local governments like Sherwood have the authority to determine how to staff our local inspection programs. House Bill 2420 does not assure local authority and we are concerned about the

consequences of this bill and the potential for future degradation of local building department's authority to operate their programs.

Sincerely,



Julia Hajduk  
Community Development Director

Cc: Scott McKie, Building Official  
Joseph Gall, City Manager