

House Committee on Business & Labor
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

March 17, 2021

RE: Support House Bill 2415 with the -1 Amendment

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee,



Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of HB 2415 and the -1 amendments. The Oregon Building Officials Association (OBOA) represents more than 1,000 building officials and personnel throughout the state. Its members include a wide range of building officials, both in large, metropolitan cities and counties, as well as small, rural jurisdictions and includes third-party building inspectors.

As you know, Oregon has a statewide building code, adopted by the State Building Codes Division, which establishes uniform safety and energy standards for all residential and commercial buildings throughout the state. In most jurisdictions, the statewide code is administered and enforced by local city or county building departments. In jurisdictions where neither a city, nor a county assume these responsibilities, the State Building Codes Division must do so.

HB 2415, with the -1 amendments, would require municipalities to either implement their own e-permitting system with minimum statutorily defined features as identified in the bill or utilize the state e-permitting system by January 1, 2025, which must also meet those statutorily defined minimum features. Additionally, the Department of Consumer and Business Services would be tasked with establishing minimum standards and statewide consistency for e-permitting through rulemaking. That rulemaking will be critical in ensuring those system requirements included in the legislation are properly defined to allow for municipalities to have certainty in the systems they've invested heavily in. Our association looks forward to playing an active role in that process and working with our industry, state, and local government partners to ensure those rules work for everyone.

OBOA believes this is an important and practical step towards ensuring we're utilizing technology that is readily available in our industry and will allow for critical efficiencies while providing a necessary tool for our industry partners. Furthermore, for those jurisdictions that are not currently operating on their own e-permitting system and do not have plans to develop their own prior to January 1, 2025, they will have the opportunity to utilize the state system that is currently funded through our statewide surcharge. HB 2415 with the -1 amendments hits the right balance between flexibility, local options, and ensuring the industry continues to move forward and keep up with technological advances in our sector.

Thank you again for this opportunity to support HB 2415 and the -1 amendments.

Sincerely,

Eric Schmidt

Legislative Chair, Oregon Building Officials Association

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