

SUPPORT FOR SB 866

TO: SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

5/25/21

The Oregon State Association of Electrical Workers, Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors Association, Sheet Metal Workers Local 16, UA 290 Plumbers & Steamfitters, Plumbing and Mechanical Contractors Association and the Oregon Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors Association urge your support for SB 866.

SB 866 is the long sought after compromise solution to a long standing and highly complex problem affecting the construction industry, the state Building Codes Division and local governments. The problem – dealing with the use of contracted building officials - has constitutional, legal and practical issues. Many legislative and administrative concepts to fix this problem have been aired over the past few years. This measure will address the problems in successful way.

Of critical importance to all parties involved – *the bill puts in place a method to affirm that building permits, discretionary decisions and inspections that were done in the past by jurisdictions using contracted building officials are valid.*

The measure also does the following:

- Allows the existing jurisdictions currently using contracted building officials to continue to do so if the jurisdiction designates a qualified city employee, who completes certifications or training approved by DCBS, to oversee the building official’s discretionary decisions.
- Requires discretionary decisions made by contracted building officials to be put down in writing.
- Provides for greater oversight by DCBS of contracted programs.
- Requires regular independent audits of contracted programs and that the audits are made public.
- Creates a more robust and timelier local based appeals process.
- Clarifies the contracted building officials, plans examiners and inspectors are public officials subject to Oregon’s ethics laws and DCBS policies.

Our organizations urge the Senate Rules Committee to pass SB 866.



IBEW 48
IBEW 89
IBEW 112
IBEW 125
IBEW 280
IBEW 659
IBEW 932

Oregon State Association
of Electrical Workers



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