



March 23, 2023

House Committee on Housing and Homelessness
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re HB 3414

Chair Dexter and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 3414 on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Oregon Building Officials Association.

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.

The OBOA opposes the repurposing of \$2.1 million held by the Building Codes Division as described in the Governor's Recommended Budget and the continuous appropriation from the Department of Consumer and Business Services in HB 3414 to fund positions within the Housing Accountability and Production Office.

Under OAR 918-020-0070, the intent of BCD "is to cooperate with municipalities to obtain and maintain authority to administer and enforce efficient, effective, timely and acceptable building inspection programs."

Diverting this revenue could potentially harm Oregon communities that lack the funding for an efficient inspection program and, or through economic slowdown, have a need to give the program back to the State.

If the legislature determines the Housing Production and Accountability Office is in the state's best interest, we respectfully request it be funded another way. This is not the purpose for which the \$2.1 million at BCD was collected, and it is not an appropriate use of the funds. Maintaining these funds within BCD would allow BCD to continue to support programs around the state and to maintain the integrity of its programs through downward swings in the economy.

We appreciate your consideration of our concern and hope you will preserve BCD funds now and into the future for the purpose for which they were collected.

Sincerely,

Scott Lifesty

Scott Lifesty, CBO
Washington County
President, OBOA Board of Directors

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