

April 18, 2013

Senate Committee on Rural Communities &
Economic Development
Oregon State Capitol Building
900 Court St NE
Salem, Oregon 97301



RE: SB 582(-3) – Relating to the State Building Code

Hon. Chair Roblan and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Oregon Building Officials Association, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to participate in the stakeholder conversations regarding Senate Bill 582. Our Association appreciates the work of this Committee and the Oregon Legislature to provide support to financially hard-hit counties in the remote and rural areas of the state, and we support the elements of this bill that offer this relief.

Although lack of funding has been challenging for many building safety programs in rural and remote areas, Oregon's local building departments are doing a good job of protecting the public while delivering flexible and expedient customer service. It's important that we all keep working together to support the efforts of local building programs, as construction projects are able to proceed much more quickly and smoothly when coordinated at the local level. The previous versions of this bill would have seriously jeopardized the ability of local governments throughout the state to provide quality, coordinated development services.

Although this bill has been significantly modified and now offers a more collaborative view toward building safety and economic development than previous versions, our Association cannot at this time support or endorse the bill. We appreciate the need to ensure that building safety services continue to be provided in areas of the state that can no longer afford to staff their programs, but our Members continue to be concerned by the elements of this bill that go beyond supporting rural communities and impact every local program in the state.

We, too, believe that public safety and economic vitality are not mutually exclusive concepts, and our Association welcomes the opportunity to discuss how local building departments can keep Oregon communities focused on a safe and vibrant future.

Thank you for considering this testimony.

Respectfully submitted:

Melanie Adams, President
Oregon Building Officials Association
president@oregonbuildingofficials.com
ph: (503)681-6132

PRESIDENT
MELANIE ADAMS
City of Hillsboro

VICE PRESIDENT
ROBERT RICE
Josephine County

SECRETARY/TREASURER
CHERYL BELL
City of Beaverton

PAST PRESIDENT
DAN CARLSON
City of Corvallis

DIRECTORS
MATT ROZZELL
City of Happy Valley
ERIC SCHMIDT
City of Gresham
TERRY WHITEHILL
City of Portland