



# CITY OF CLATSKANIE

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January 6, 2020

Dear Rule Making and Advisory Committee:

This letter is to request that any new proposed Rules that are being considered for adoption by the Building Code Division allow jurisdictions to continue to use 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendors as Building Officials and to continue to use such vendors for building inspections. Currently, the City of Clatskanie uses a 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendor to conduct our building inspections, plan reviews, and serve as our Building Official. The use of a 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendor is critical for us, as we are only a staff of 4 people.

We have been using our current 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendor for over 10 years. The system, as it is currently configured, works and works well. We have oversight of the vendor as our procedures have several layers/steps of review prior to permits being issued. The level of oversight is not burdensome and is efficient for us.

A brief history of why we use a 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendor: We contracted with a 3<sup>rd</sup> party for customer service sake. The county, was taking months for even the simplest of inspections and even longer for plan reviews. The City Council at that time did the research and decided to go the route of a 3<sup>rd</sup> party. The results have been an unqualified success. Plan reviews now take about a week, not months, and inspections can be scheduled to happen...and are completed...within days.

I must emphasize that small cities like mine use 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendors for many services. These include planning, city attorney, and various other contractors who fill the service void we cannot because of our size. And all of these contracted services have our oversight.

Again. Please allow cities like mine to continue to use the 3<sup>rd</sup> party Building Official as we have been doing for a decade with magnificent success. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Hinkelman".

Greg Hinkelman  
City Manager, Clatskanie