



Board of County Commissioners

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January 29, 2019

House Committee on Business Affairs and Labor
200 E Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Chair Tracy Kraft-Tharp and House Committee on Business Affairs and Labor,

The Eagle County Board of Commissioners oppose HB 19-1086 as currently drafted. This bill would require Eagle County and other local governments to use only journeyman and master plumbers to perform plumbing inspections. Like most Colorado cities/counties that provide this service, we employ combination inspectors trained and certified as plumbing inspectors by the International Code Council (ICC).

Eagle County Building Department's entire staff is currently ICC Certified to do plumbing inspections. Eagle County has been doing plumbing inspections with ICC certified inspectors for over 17 years. Eagle County inspectors attend training yearly to maintain these certifications and to stay current with the new codes. We are not aware of any demonstrated problems in the state of Colorado from using plumbing inspectors to perform inspections, instead of licensed plumbers.

If this bill passes, it would significantly increase our costs to provide this service to our customers. Since existing staff cannot practicably become licensed journeyman or master plumbers, we would need to hire plumbers to work alongside our current building inspectors. Given our large geographic area, it becomes onerous to send multiple inspectors to the same site to perform different inspections. This would significantly impact our current operational structure.

Eagle County currently does inspections 5 days a week. If DORA takes over the plumbing inspections, our level of service to our community would dramatically decline. Inspections would only occur once or twice a week (at most) which would put a hardship on our Plumbing contractors as well as our General contractors.

This bill would make our county inspection operations very difficult. Feel free to reach out if you need more information. We hope you vote this draft down in committee.

Sincerely,

Eagle County Board of Commissioners

Jeanne McQueeney

Chair

Kathy Chandler-Henry

Commissioner