

To: Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business Committee

Date: May 23, 2023

RE: LD 1929, An Act to Protect Consumers by Licensing Home Building Contractors

My name is Rebecca Weinstein. I am a resident of Portland. I would like to lend my support to the passage of LD 1929, An Act to Protect Consumers by Licensing Home Building Contractors.

I have been in the process of home renovation for nearly 2 ½ years. I have been stood up by numerous contractors, mislead, outright lied to, and ripped off.

After three different contractors agreed to perform work and never showed, I finally signed an agreement and paid a deposit of \$12,000 with a contractor whose reviews now appear to have been fraudulent. The work did not start until nearly six months after the agreed upon date. The project took three times longer than promised, as multiple new jobs began so that initial payments could be collected. The contractor never pulled permits as he claimed he would and the job was utter chaos. The workers required to be licensed (electricians and plumbers), were not – though I was told they would be. Each week there were fights when the crew didn't get paid and at least one person quit or got fired. By the end I had banned one of owners from my premises and the other owner, who had virtually no experience, proceeded to do every aspect of the job with no regard to code. I now have to get the work redone at my expense. Of course, I can sue them, but that is a major undertaking. This company, I have found out, has committed fraud with regard to hiring practices and has been reported to the State. In all, I paid them nearly \$40,000 in labor costs, plus materials.

I have since interviewed several new contractors to fix the job and each tells me different information regarding what needs to be done and how.

It is shocking that companies in a line of business for which such large sums of money change hands, have no licensing requirements.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rebecca Weinstein, Portland