

# City of Bethlehem

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## BUREAU OF INSPECTIONS

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April 28, 2015

Members of the House Labor and Industry Committee

Re: HB782- Opposition to Third Party Agency Mandate

On behalf of the City of Bethlehem, PA, a Third Class City, I write to express opposition to the proposed language in HB 782. The City of Bethlehem has been an opt-in municipality since the Uniform Construction Code was enacted in 2004. In an effort to supply the required Certified Inspection Services, the City of Bethlehem executes a request for professional services (RFP) every three years for a third party agency to provide emergency backup personnel. The City of Bethlehem conducts all required inspections with full time employees but in case of illness, accidents or employee transition the third party provides certified inspection services by supplying a certified inspector to the City of Bethlehem. Under the proposed language in HB782, the City of Bethlehem would no longer be able to operate in this fashion. We would be required to have a minimum of two agencies and the client would be able to choose which agency to perform the inspections. Currently the City of Bethlehem schedules all inspections and assigns the inspector whether an employee or third party employee. Under the proposed language in HB782 this would no longer be possible.

The requirement in HB782 to execute an RFP every two years (in lieu of every three) and to choose two third party agencies will place an undo financial burden on the City of Bethlehem through advertising and staff hours required to execute the RFP.

The requirements in HB782 to allow a client to choose an inspector will disrupt our current inspection procedures and reduce the City of Bethlehem's ability to properly enforce the Uniform Construction Code Act.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,

Craig Hynes, Chief Code Official

Cc: Alicia Karner, Director Community and Economic Development  
File

