



TEAMSTERS LOCAL No. 853

AFFILIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS & TEAMSTERS' JOINT COUNCIL #7

7750 PARDEE LANE • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94621-1497

TELEPHONE: (510) 895-8853 • (800) 400-1250 • FAX: (510) 895-6853

5988 Silver Creek Valley Rd. Ste. 55 • San Jose, CA 95138 • (408) 453-0287 • Fax: (408) 453-2034

22 East Fifth Street • Watsonville, CA 95076 • (831) 724-0683 • Fax: (831) 724-1554

email: connections@teamsters853.org

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Re: Opposition to making the Building Inspection Commission Advisory and eliminating the Code Advisory Committee

Dear Chair Harrington and Members of the Task Force:

On behalf of **Teamsters Local 853**, representing thousands of working men and women across the Bay Area, we'd like to express our **strong opposition** to any proposal that would dismantle or weaken the **Building Inspection Commission (BIC)** or the **Code Advisory Committee (CAC)**.

From a labor perspective, these bodies are essential safeguards that ensure accountability, worker safety, and transparent public oversight. Reducing oversight shifts the burden onto workers who bear the consequences, such as unsafe job sites, rushed construction timelines, weakened enforcement of basic standards, and diminished protections for tenants and the public.

Our members work daily in and around construction sites. They witness firsthand what occurs when regulatory agencies are pressured to sacrifice safety in the name of "streamlining." The BIC and CAC play a vital role in preventing these outcomes. They offer an open forum where code changes, departmental policies, and budget decisions are reviewed publicly, enabling workers, tenants, and community members to provide meaningful input into the process.

The **Code Advisory Committee** provides essential technical expertise that helps identify issues before policies are put into place. Removing or reducing this committee would eliminate a key mechanism we rely on to ensure safe, informed, and fair construction practices across the city.

We also remind the Task Force that **San Francisco voters approved Proposition B in 2022**, which restructured the Building Inspection Commission while explicitly maintaining oversight and public accountability. Further weakening the Commission now would contradict the voters' clear intent and undermine years of progress in rebuilding trust in the Department of Building Inspection.

Teamsters Local 853 supports efficiency and modernization in public agencies but **streamlining must not sacrifice safety**. True efficiency comes from clear rules, consistent enforcement, and public trust – not from bypassing oversight systems that protect workers and residents.

For these reasons, we strongly encourage **keeping the Building Inspection Commission and the Code Advisory Committee** as vital parts of DBI's governance structure. San Francisco's workers, tenants, and communities deserve nothing less.

Thank you for considering our perspective. We are available to discuss these concerns further and are ready to support policies that promote safety, transparency, and fairness.

Sincerely,

Mike Henneberry

Recording Secretary/Business Representative

Representing Members in Warehousing, Dairy, Liquor, Bakery, Construction, Building Materials, Newspaper, Concession, Retail Delivery, Automotive, Retail, Printing, Package Delivery, and Miscellaneous Industries

