

Summary of Testimony to Construction Claims Task Force  
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ORA represents the “little guy” with 350 members, 2/3 of which have less than five employees. Many are sole proprietors.

ORA was concerned with implications that the building industry controls the CCB. ORA helped form the CCB to protect consumers. It is in our best interest to prevent shoddy work, dishonest contractors, and low-balling. We supported recent changes in the CCB website to offer more information to consumers.

We are generally supportive of the idea of more inspections and code changes that focus on the building envelope.

We are not sure of the rationale for the proposal requiring that only general contractors be permitted to take out permits. Some homeowners prefer to handle this.

We are supportive of further exploration of the idea of a recovery fund if it replaces the current bonding requirement.

We are cautiously supportive of competency testing and continuing education focused on the building envelope, but urge caution due to the large number of people affected.

No amount of regulation can substitute for good common sense on the part of the consumer in checking a contractor’s background. It is important that the CCB website provide educational tools for consumers.

We urge the task force to focus on the problem of obtaining liability insurance. Most of our members have had premiums doubled and tripled. Insurance industry representatives told us this was just a typical market cycle that would correct itself within 1 to 1 ½ years. That was three years ago!