

**From:** [Sandi Gilbertson](#)  
**To:** [Elizabeth Anderson](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Building Codes  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 20, 2018 6:38:17 AM

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**SANDI GILBERTSON**  
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**KOOTENAI COUNTY**  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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**From:** Nancy Jones  
**Sent:** Monday, March 19, 2018 3:46 PM  
**To:** Sandi Gilbertson <[sgilbertson@kcgov.us](mailto:sgilbertson@kcgov.us)>  
**Subject:** FW: Building Codes

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**From:** peter ward <[pward1121@gmail.com](mailto:pward1121@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 17, 2018 9:12 AM  
**To:** kcbocc <[kcbocc@kcgov.us](mailto:kcbocc@kcgov.us)>  
**Subject:** Building Codes

Dear Commissioners,

I have been in construction for a total of 45 years. Have lived in Idaho for 30 years.

Since in Idaho I have constructed over 20 homes. Most in Kootenai County and in Bonner County before and after dissolving their building department. The quality of the product I produced has not changed, has adhered to building codes, and has passed many independent inspections regardless of the existence of government building inspectors.

Today the vast majority of homes sold result in the request of a home inspection but generally this request comes at the behest of the buyer to insure the soundness of the building. Should there be deficiencies, the seller has the option to make necessary repairs or find another buyer. Should this occur, the seller has a legal responsibility to disclose these issues.

Within the last few years, and as a result of the onerous mentality of county and local building

departments, I have given up my licensing. Building departments have become obstructionist and inspectors little Napolians. Most times it is economically more feasible to comply with their ridiculous demands than to delay a project. Both have become a serious strain on contractors and are no longer user friendly. The most important ( in my opinion) trades are already out of the purview of the county building department. Septic, heating, electrical, and plumbing all require separate department inspectors.

Most of the complaints I have seen and read in opposition to the elimination or revision to the building department are individuals or businesses attempting to protect their own self interests. They are not concerned how the current impeding system adds to the end consumers costs, in fact, some of them welcome it.

I personally am in favor of a split system that allows the builder have the option of procuring a building location permit with minimal county involvement or a full service permit as is currently in place. The majority of general contractors are more or as qualified to police their subs as anyone your building department has on staff. Many years have passed since Bonner County decided to save their taxpayers of the cost of maintaining a building department and the sky hasn't fallen.

Peter Ward  
Spirit Lake, ID  
208-623-4980

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10