



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING

PO Box 9020 • Olympia, Washington 98507-9020

May 15, 2007

James Irish
Appraisers' Coalition of Washington
6351 Seaview Avenue NW
Seattle, Washington 98107-2664

Dear Mr. Irish:

Thank you for your letter dated April 11, 2007 regarding issues of education and enforcement. Copies have been forwarded to the Real Estate Appraiser Commissioners and we have decided to place these issues on the agenda for the next commission meeting scheduled for May 18, 2007.

As you know, the Department is in the process of changing the educational requirements to comply with the new Appraiser Qualifications Board's 2008 requirements. Completion of the new requirements should increase the overall knowledge of appraiser applicants. However, the actual experience gained under the supervision of certified appraisers is of the utmost importance and, if properly supervised, should produce competency and supplement the knowledge gained from textbooks.

Real estate appraisers are required to sign a statement on the application that they have read and understand The Law Relating to Real Estate Appraiser Act. This, at a minimum, should give them a basic understanding of their scope of practice and limitations, if any.

As you also know, we receive many complaints each month. Some are more egregious than others, particularly those that represent repeat respondents or those that indicate potential widespread schematic fraud. At times, our limited staff is occasionally dedicated to large cases involving the Department of Financial Institutions and Federal law enforcement. Although our investigators sometimes assist Federal law enforcement, they are not criminal investigators. They are not trained, nor do they have the authority to investigate criminal matters.

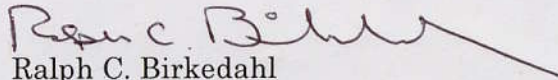
The Business and Professions Division is currently studying the complaint and investigation process throughout the entire division, including Real Estate Appraisers. This study is to find ways to improve the overall process, including elimination of the backlog, attorney general involvement, enhancement of communications, and timeliness.



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If you have any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ralph C. Birkedahl", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ralph C. Birkedahl
Program Manager
Real Estate Appraiser Program
PO Box 9015
Olympia, WA 98507-9015
360-664-6504