

MMC

Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium

February 5, 2018

Representative Paul Holvey
House Committee on Business and Labor

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee:

This letter is to express our support for HB 4127, which would provide an alternative process for the procurement of engineering, architecture, photogrammetric mapping, land surveying and transportation planning services. We care deeply about using qualified consultants to design public projects that stand the test of time, and we believe in procuring those services in a way that is transparent and allows us to be fully accountable to our constituents. The statute as it is currently constructed guarantees neither.

We oversee public contracting agencies that are required to select consultants with no information beyond each consultant's qualifications and then enter into negotiations with the most qualified consultant in the group. Only after negotiations are underway are we permitted to access critical information such as a consultant's hourly rates, the number of hours proposed for the service, expenses and overhead. The reality is that public contracting agencies are negotiating contracts without the ability to truly compare one consultant's proposal to another's. That is not a transparent way to make spending decisions with scarce public resources, and it makes it difficult for our City Councils—many acting as the local contracting review board—to be fully accountable for the contracts we authorize.

HB 4127 provides a more transparent option when purchasing consulting services and allows us, as local elected officials, to be more accountable for the contracts we authorize while continuing to ensure that only qualified consultants are designing public projects. In practical terms, this optional process is much closer to how people make purchasing decisions in their private lives. One doesn't approach purchasing a new car by going to a car lot, picking the best car, and then negotiating the price. Instead, people figure out which makes and models fit their unique combination needs and budget before choosing a car to purchase.

HB 4127 provides a more flexible, efficient and transparent process for procuring professional services and makes it easier to negotiate contracts that represent the best overall value for our communities. For these reasons, we strongly urge the committee to support this measure.

Sincerely,

Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium

Mayor Denny Doyle

City of Beaverton

Mayor Brian Hodson

City of Canby

Mayor Jeffrey Dalin

City of Cornelius

Mayor Gery Schirado

City of Durham

Mayor Ted Tosterud

City of Fairview

Mayor Peter Truax

City of Forest Grove

Mayor Tammy Stempel

City of Gladstone

Mayor Shane Bemis

City of Gresham

Mayor Lori Chavez-DeRemer

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City of Hillsboro

Mayor Ken Gibson

City of King City

Mayor Kent Studebaker

City of Lake Oswego

Mayor Mark Hardie

City of Maywood Park

Mayor Mark Gamba

City of Milwaukie

Mayor Teri Lenahan

City of North Plains

Mayor Dan Holladay

City of Oregon City

Mayor Ted Wheeler

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Mayor Heather Kibbey

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Mayor Lee Weislogel

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Mayor John Cook

City of Tigard

Mayor Casey Ryan

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Mayor Tim Knapp

City of Wilsonville

Mayor Patricia Smith

City of Wood Village