



ALEX CUYLER

Intergovernmental Relations Manager
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DATE: February 9, 2018

TO: House Committee on Business and Labor

RE: HB 4127, relating to a consultant selection process for a public contract for certain services

Dear Chairman Holvey and Members of the Committee:

The Lane County Board of Commissioners has reviewed HB 4127 as introduced and is in support of this measure. We ask that you make a DO PASS recommendation today at your work session on this bill. We additionally support the dash 1 amendment, which is a technical improvement to the measure and clarifies Legislative intent.

Lane County, like most local governments, enters into thousands of contracts annually. This measure is specific to certain construction related services, and is particularly important for the following reasons:

- The cost to public entities to go through a solicitation process and not have the ability to apply pricing as an evaluation point is unsustainable. Our experience shows us that firms move through the process only to later learn that our budget cannot support their proposal. The result is a rebidding of the project, obviously at taxpayer expense.
- The very act of responding to one of our requests for proposals can involve significant financial commitments from private firms. For firms that move through this process only to find the County does not have sufficient resources to pay for their proposal are fiscally draining. They have little ability to gauge which projects are appropriate for them to bid on.
- We have found that more and more out of region firms are bidding on projects we might rather award to a local firm. The current QBS system favors the larger players in the industry and gives little to no opportunity for medium to large projects to be awarded to emerging firms wishing to live in the smaller communities that they service.

This measure is good for both public and private entities, and represents an easy step for the Legislature to take that will result in a step towards a more business friendly environment across Oregon.

**SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY BY ALEX CUYLER, LANE COUNTY
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS MANAGER**