

On Feb 8, 2018, at 6:01 PM, Kris O. DeGroot <[kdegroot@co.douglas.or.us](mailto:kdegroot@co.douglas.or.us)> wrote:

As the Douglas County Surveyor since January, 2015, I have not contracted professional surveying services because of budget concerns. If and when I am able to enter into any contracts, I will specify a QBS Contract Model in screening the **prospective consultants** and in awarding the contract.

My approximately 40 years of professional surveying in Oregon has been primarily been in the private sector. I was licensed as a Professional Land Surveyor in 1981 and worked as an employee and then as the owner of a Professional Land Surveying business until 2015. From the 1970's to the 1990's approximately 50% to 75% of our survey work was in contracting with the federal government, primarily the US Forest Service. Private Land Surveyors in conjunction with PLSO worked long and hard in support of changing federal law (Brooks Act) to require QBS in awarding land surveying and engineering contracts. Prior to that, the USFS awarded surveying contracts almost exclusively on a lowest price basis. Many times, contracts were awarded to licensed but unqualified surveyors from major urban areas who were not prepared to complete survey work in the rugged mountainous areas of southern and coastal Oregon. Bringing land surveying contracting under the Brooks Act was hailed as a major victory, not only in Oregon but throughout all of the western United States because of the vast federal land holdings.

In my opinion, House Bill 4127 guts the QBS contract selection process and will be detrimental to professional land surveyors in Oregon and I am opposed to the passage of this legislation.

**Kris DeGroot, P.L.S.**  
**Douglas County Surveyor**  
**541-440-4281**  
[kdegroot@co.douglas.or.us](mailto:kdegroot@co.douglas.or.us)

**The National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) fully supports contracting and utilizing a QBS selection process in contracting for professional surveying services as is set forth in their Strategic Plan:**

**Goal 2: Expand and strengthen government affairs efforts**

**Objective A: Promote legislation and government programs that maximize the utilization of surveying and geospatial data, services, and technology to solve global, national, state, and local problems**

- Seek legislation to increase utilization of surveying in government programs
- Support budget and appropriations of government agencies that utilize surveying data and services
- Work for enactment of the Federal Land Asset Inventory Reform (FLAIR) Act, the Digital Coast Act, the Map It Once, Use It Many Times Act, and other similar legislation
- Support the 3-dimensional elevation program (3DEP) and other "...for the Nation" surveying and geospatial data programs

- Advocate for a reorganization of Federal surveying and mapping activities to better coordinate and utilize geospatial technologies

**Objective B: Advocate for legislation, regulations and government policies that promote and enforce use of the qualifications based selection (QBS) process for selection of firms for surveying services**

- Keep members, legislators, government officials, end users educated on the benefits of QBS
- Provide assistance to members on enforcement of existing QBS laws and regulations
- Establish a process by which state licensing boards assist with enforcement of existing QBS laws and regulations
- Take appropriate legislative, administrative or legal action to assure proper enforcement of QBS
- Work with other like-minded organizations and activities to promote QBS
- Implement a public relations strategy to coordinate media articles, presentations and other collateral materials and activities to promote QBS
- Develop education and training materials for public agency personnel to further the understanding and utilization of the QBS process
- Seek Federal and State legislation to implement, clarify and expand the reach of QBS for surveying and mapping services
- Work with COFPAES to draft legislation for introduction in Congress to update the Brooks Act, including the definition of services covered, as well as subcontracts and grants
- Work with state affiliates and other organizations to promote mini-Brooks Act legislation in the state legislatures
- Educate government personnel on estimating and negotiating contracts in the QBS process