



February 9, 2018

Representative Paul Holvey, Chair
House Committee on Business & Labor
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 4127

Representative Holvey and Members of the Committee:

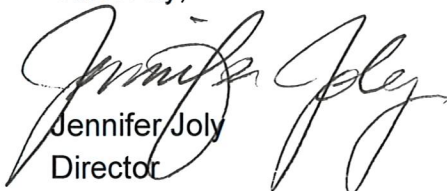
The Oregon Municipal Electric Utilities Association (OMEU) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of HB 4127, relating to the consultant selection process for professional services. OMEU is made up of 11 municipally-owned and operated electric utilities.

HB 4127 provides a common-sense option for public agencies contracting for architectural, engineering, photogrammetric mapping, transportation planning and land surveying services. Importantly, the bill levels the playing for public agencies in the negotiation process by allowing price information to be requested of qualified consultants prior to opening negotiations.

The passage of this bill will provide cost savings to our utility ratepayers through a more balanced contract negotiation process. Architects and engineers should be upfront with their pricing and public agencies should not have to wait until an initial offer is made to find out what any service would cost. Price is a critical component for assessing whether the consultants truly understand the project scope and provides an important basis for comparison among qualified bidders.

Our ratepayers expect and deserve the stewardship the procurement option in HB 4127 allows. OMEU urges your support.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Joly
Director

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