



DAVID EVANS
AND ASSOCIATES INC.

February 9, 2018

SUBJECT: Opposition to HB 4127, Vote No

The Honorable Chair Paul Holvey and members of the House Business and Labor Committee,

Our company is headquartered in Portland with other Oregon offices in Bend, Corvallis, and Salem. I am writing to urge your strong opposition to engineering services and HB 4127. **The current Qualification Based Selection (QBS) already allows agencies to consider cost during negotiations and to select the most qualified company to perform the needed services - creating the best value for taxpayers.** If the most qualified company cannot perform the services at the cost the agency feels is appropriate, the agency can and should move on to the next most qualified company to start negotiations.

- **Price Based Selection** – HB 4127 is a drastic change to Oregon's current procurement methodology and goes against the American Public Works Association, the largest and most recognized public works professional organization in America.
- **Bad for Taxpayers** – Bidding design services has proven to be problematic on public works projects that can have life cycles upwards of 50-100 years. Low bid design decreases innovation and creative ideas that have saved taxpayers millions of construction dollars on just a single, large project.
- **Agency / Design Firm Partnership** – QBS, not bidding, creates an owner/owner's representative relationship where the design firm is working to create the best project outcome for the owner and taxpayers.
- **Education** – We endorse an ongoing educational effort with state and local governments and pledge work with proponents of HB 4127 to come up with a workable solution for all sides prior to the 2019 legislative session.

We believe the issue is too nuanced to find a common resolution during the short and frenetic 2018 session. I ask the House Business Committee and the legislative leadership to appoint a task force on the issue where all sides can discuss the issue in a setting that will lead to a much better understanding of what the current law allows and then possible legislation or other solutions for the 2019 legislative session that will work for all parties.

Sincerely,

DAVID EVANS AND ASSOCIATES, INC.

Shon Heern, P.E.
Oregon Region Construction Engineering Services Manager
Project Manager