

**Testimony of Randy Tucker, Legislative Affairs Manager
In Support of House Bill 4127
House Committee on Business and Labor
February 9, 2018**



Chair Holvey and Members of the Committees:

The Metro Council urges you to support House Bill 4127 with the -1 amendment. Metro shares the concern of other local governments about the challenges to government efficiency posed by the contracting method known as Qualification-Based Selection (QBS) as currently practiced in Oregon. HB 4127 would authorize local governments, at their option, to use an alternative procurement process that promises to save both time and money while still ensuring the selection of qualified contractors.

One of the professions covered by the current QBS statute is photogrammetry. Metro makes extensive use of photogrammetric services (aerial photography and related services) in developing the mapping that informs much of our regional decision making. We also coordinate a consortium, consisting of most of the local governments in the region, which shares the cost and benefits of these services.

The photogrammetry contract we manage on behalf of the consortium is a multi-year contract that has not been renewed since the QBS requirement first went into effect. However, the last time it was renewed there was a procurement-related delay (unrelated to QBS in that case) that almost caused us to miss the weather window for aerial photography, which, as you can imagine, is not unlimited in the Pacific Northwest. Having to evaluate pricing information one firm at a time could elongate the procurement timeline by a factor of two or more (assuming two or more price negotiations), in addition to the usual procurement process, leading to delays which could cause the project to fail.

Under the process created by HB 4127, a contracting agency would have the option of requesting pricing information from up to five proposers simultaneously rather than sequentially. Not only does this eliminate the possibility of time-consuming consecutive negotiations, it also enables the contracting agency to compare pricing information up front, thereby supporting efficient use of public dollars.

The Metro Council urges you to support HB 4127. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.