

February 5, 2018

Re: Engineer Opposed to HB 4127

Dear House Business and Labor Committee:

My name is Richard Roché, Operations Manager for Parametrix's Oregon operations. We are an engineering, planning, and environmental consulting firm with 500 professionals, including 75 professionals located in our Portland and Bend offices. I'm writing to express our strong opposition to HB 4127, which will decimate Oregon's Qualifications-Based Selection process. QBS has proven to be an effective procurement methodology that ensures the best use of Oregon's limited public works funds. With the new transportation funding package, effective delivery of those projects is extremely important. QBS is the right way to procure professional design firms.

KEY POINTS:

- **Price-Based Selection** – HB 4127 is a drastic change to Oregon's current procurement methodology. This goes against the policy of the American Public Works Association, the largest and most recognized association of public works professionals in America.
- **Bad for Small Business** – Bidding is a barrier to small, emerging and minority owned professional services businesses getting a fair opportunity in the marketplace. It fundamentally changes the way small firms work with public agencies.
- **Bad for Taxpayers** – Bidding design services has proven to be problematic on public works projects, which have life-cycles upwards of 50-100 years. Lowest price design limits opportunities to find cost-savings through innovation and new ideas. Poor or incomplete design leads to unintended conflicts during construction and costly long-term maintenance and operations.
- **Agency/Design Firm Partnership** – QBS, not bidding, creates a positive partnership between the owner and the designer. This allows for the best project outcomes for Oregon taxpayers.
- **Education is the Key** – We endorse an ongoing educational effort with state and local governments and pledge to work with proponents of HB 4127 to find solutions to their concerns prior to the 2019 session.

While procurement of design professionals by state and local agencies is not well known or understood except by the procurement professionals and businesses who strive to do public works projects in the industry, HB 4127 is a solution in search of a problem. This poorly conceived procurement methodology will create many unintended consequences and cost taxpayers in expensive change orders and litigation.

This issue is too complicated for the short timeframes of the February 2018 session. ACEC offers our expertise to craft solutions for the 2019 session that work for Oregon's taxpayers, Oregon's public work projects and for the many ACEC professionals who are committed to quality projects that are on time and on budget.

I offer my assistance to better help you understand the importance of this issue. Please contact me at your convenience at 503-416-6168 or roche@parametrix.com to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Tom Roche", written in a cursive style.

PARAMETRIX