

April 17, 2019

**MMC**

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**Metropolitan  
Mayors'  
Consortium**

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**Mayor Denny Doyle**  
City of Beaverton

**Mayor Brian Hodson**  
City of Canby

**Mayor Jeffrey Dalin**  
City of Cornelius

**Mayor Gery Schirado**  
City of Durham

**Mayor Brian Cooper**  
City of Fairview

**Mayor Peter Truax**  
City of Forest Grove

**Mayor Shane Bemis**  
City of Gresham

**Mayor Tom Ellis**  
City of Happy Valley

**Mayor Steve Callaway**  
City of Hillsboro

**Mayor Ken Gibson**  
City of King City

**Mayor Kent Studebaker**  
City of Lake Oswego

**Mayor Mark Hardie**  
City of Maywood Park

**Mayor Mark Gamba**  
City of Milwaukie

**Mayor Teri Lenahan**  
City of North Plains

**Mayor Dan Holladay**  
City of Oregon City

**Mayor Ted Wheeler**  
City of Portland

**Mayor Walt Williams**  
City of Rivergrove

**Mayor Keith Mays**  
City of Sherwood

**Mayor Jason Snider**  
City of Tigard

**Mayor Casey Ryan**  
City of Troutdale

**Mayor Frank Bubenik**  
City of Tualatin

**Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle**  
City of Vancouver (ex officio)

**Mayor Russ Axelrod**  
City of West Linn

**Mayor Tim Knapp**  
City of Wilsonville

**Mayor Scott Harden**  
City of Wood Village

Chair Chuck Riley  
Senate Business and General Government Committee

Re: Support for HB 2769 A

Dear Chair Riley and Members of the Committee,

The Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium (MMC) represents the mayors of twenty-five cities in the Portland Metro Area, collectively home to over 1.7 million Oregonians. The MMC writes to express its strong support for HB 2769 A.

As mayors, we care deeply about using qualified consultants to design public projects that stand the test of time, and we believe in procuring those services in a way that is transparent and allows us to be fully accountable to our constituents. The statute as it is currently constructed guarantees neither. We oversee public contracting agencies that are required to select consultants with no information beyond each consultant's qualifications, and then enter into negotiations with the most qualified consultant in the group. Only after negotiations are underway are we permitted to access critical information such as a consultant's hourly rates, the number of hours proposed for the service, expenses and overhead. The reality is that public contracting agencies are negotiating contracts without the ability to truly compare one consultant's proposal to another's. That is not a transparent way to make spending decisions with scarce public resources, and it makes it difficult for our City Councils—many acting as the local contracting review board—to be fully accountable for the contracts we authorize.

HB 2769 A provides a more transparent option when purchasing consulting services and allows us, as local elected officials, to be more accountable for the contracts we authorize while continuing to ensure that only qualified consultants are designing public projects. In practical terms, this optional process is much closer to how people make purchasing decisions in their private lives. One doesn't approach purchasing a new car by going to a car lot, picking the best car, and then negotiating the price. Instead, people determine which makes and models fit their unique combination of needs and budget before choosing a car to purchase.

HB 2769 A provides a more flexible, efficient and transparent process for procuring professional services and makes it easier to negotiate contracts that represent the best overall value for our communities. For these reasons, we strongly urge the committee to support this measure.

Sincerely,

The Metropolitan Mayors' Consortium