

Chair Holvey, member of the Committee, I am Representative Lew Frederick, of House District 43, North and Northeast Portland, here again on House Bill 2667, to quickly explain the -1 amendment.

The amendment does two things.

First, it removes the sections related to carbon impact of non-local contracting. This might be an approach to look at in the future in order to encourage public contracting with local firms, to maximize the local economic activity generated by our Oregon public contracting dollars. I agree that this is a *separate* debate and exploration, although one I hope we have, and I think there are important economic and environmental questions that should be asked and answered.

The second one refines both the makeup of the task force and the charge to it. As originally drafted, the bill failed to specify minority or women membership on the task force; historically, we have found that when representation goals are expressed in aggregate, minorities and women are usually left out. It also did not address a common shortcoming of reporting on minority, women and emerging business contracting, that the aggregated data can, and usually does, hide significant disparities.

So, this amendment specifically calls for each appointing authority to appoint “One member who is a minority individual or a woman, as those terms are defined in ORS 200.005, who owns or operates a small or local business.” This will make up 1/3 of the 9 member task force.

And it calls for the resulting report to illuminate the impact of contracting agencies’ public contracting practices on minority-owned, women-owned and emerging small business each as a separate category, and, further, the impact on specific groups of minority individuals, listed in the amendment.