



DAVID EVANS
AND ASSOCIATES INC.

2013 Session Bill #: SB554
Joint Committee on
Ways and Means Pages: 2
General Government Subcommittee
Date: 4/1/13 Exhibit #: 8

April 1, 2013

Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee
Oregon Legislature
900 NE Court Streets
Salem, Oregon 97301

SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF ODOT

Chair Johnson, Chair Jenson, Senator Jenson, Senator Hansell, Senator Shields, Representative McKeown, and Representative Read:

My name is Ken Wightman and I am the Chairman of David Evans and Associates, Inc. (DEA), a consulting engineering firm employing more than 700 employees and headquartered in Portland. I am also the National Chairman of the Transportation Committee of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC). ACEC represents more than 5,000 firms nationally comprising more than 500,000 employees. About half of these firms operate in the transportation markets throughout the US and internationally.

By presenting my thoughts to you today, I am hoping to bring both a national and statewide perspective in my comments. DEA has acted as a design consultant to ODOT for nearly 22 years on a wide variety of projects. We have found ODOT to be a great client to have and open to constructive comments on contracting, design parameters and approaches to projects.

I believe that Director Garrett has provided great leadership to ODOT by instilling a level of responsibility and outward focus that was not present before he took over the organization. A prime example of this is his belief that the private design community is a valuable team member and extension of the ODOT staff.

During the "boom" years of the 2000s many states, Washington and California included, expanded their internal staff significantly to perform the projects that had been authorized and funded by their various state and local agencies. ODOT on the other hand made a commitment to consistently contract out a minimum 30 percent of their design work to consultants. This allowed them to provide the services they needed during the peak times, but eliminate the number of permanent staff with no work to do when the lean times came after 2008.

Now, do we think that their numbers could have been higher? Sure. But in reality having the knowledge that this base level was going to be there allowed larger firms to keep staff in place to perform the work while also letting small business and minorities enter the transportation markets.



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Over our 22 years of working with ODOT, we have had lots of challenges as well as opportunities. They have been willing to look at any issue with an open mind and allow the give and take of relationship building to take place. ACEC Oregon and ODOT have formed several levels of interaction and communication which allows issues and concerns to be raised and solved at a low level most often very amicably.

ODOT has also been very creative and innovative in its approach to delivering it's services. Jim Whitty's reputation nationally for "Vehicle Miles Traveled" is truly amazing. Every time I travel back east I am constantly asked what Oregon is doing in this area. They have also developed good skills in the design-build arena and are now looking into implementing some public/private partnership projects through the Oregon Innovative Partnerships Program.

I particularly like the overview perspective that the ODOT leadership brings to looking at and providing solutions to the transportation infrastructure and systems issues facing Oregon today. It is imperative that we take a systematic approach to these problems. It means that ODOT must plan well, design well, and make sure that the public is getting the best value it can for the tax dollars that it is given.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my thoughts and opinions to you today in support of the great work ODOT has done over the past 22 years. DEA is looking forward to our firm continuing our great partnership with them for many years to come.

Very truly yours,

DAVID EVANS AND ASSOCIATES, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenneth M. Wightman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kenneth M. Wightman, P.E., P.L.S. F.ACEC
Chairman