



April 29, 2013

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 644

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY - APRIL 30, 2013

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To Chair Holvey, Vice - Chairs Lively and Richardson, and members of the Committee:

The City of Albany has significant concerns pertaining to SB 644, which would extend the Qualification-Based Selection (QBS) process to public procurements under \$100,000.

SB 644 will cost local agencies money and decrease efficiencies:

It is, therefore, not the best use of public money. Unlike the selection process for other types of public procurements, QBS does not allow an agency to consider cost or level of effort when making the selection of the best or most appropriate provider of professional services. SB 644 will eliminate a significant tool that agencies use in selection of the appropriate professional service provider. Use of cost and level of effort information in the selection process provides the best cost/value choice for the limited public funds that are available.

SB 644 creates a burdensome process that adds no value:

SB 644 creates a burdensome process for projects that are straight forward without providing any proven improved results or cost savings for the public. SB 644 mandates that local governments use the more time-consuming and less easily quantifiable QBS process. It eliminates the ability of agencies to use level of effort and costs in the selection method. In doing so, the State disproportionately is adding to local-government staff work time, expense, and project schedule duration for small scale straightforward projects. This is being required with no demonstrated benefit to the public in costs or quality.

SB 644 favors national engineering providers over local qualified engineering firms:

SB 644 creates an advantage for larger consulting firms, which generally possess larger more diverse staffs and, therefore, greater "qualifications." SB 644 decreases the opportunities for small perfectly qualified engineering firms in our area to successfully propose on these kinds of smaller projects. The State should seek to help small businesses grow and prosper, rather than place inappropriate impediments to their success.

The City believes that SB 644 will lead to higher costs and needlessly drawn out project schedules for local governments and will hurt local small businesses without a benefit to the public and, therefore, encourages a DO NOT PASS vote on the bill.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Shepard, P.E.
Public Works Director

MS:kw