



February 4, 2014

The Honorable Margaret Doherty  
House Committee on Business and Labor  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**RE: HB 4119 Relating to direct appointments for certain consulting services**

Dear Chair Doherty and Members of the House Committee on Business and Labor:

The City of Beaverton is writing to express its opposition to HB 4119 which extends the qualification-based selection process for hiring architects, engineers and related consultants to contracts under \$100,000. Our concern is that the bill unduly complicates the contracting process for small dollar contracts.

For example, the city frequently seeks professional service contracts for surveying property lines. Our public works department calls or email companies for bids to do these tasks. The dollar amount involved rarely exceeds \$50,000 and often falls in the \$10,000 or less range.

If HB 4119 were enacted, the city would not be able to contact a company to ask about their availability and the price to perform a simple surveying task. We'd first have to discuss the firm's experience, competence, resources, record of past performance, cost controls, contract administration, proposed project management technique, etc.

These are not complex projects. Direct appointment is a sensible means to hire architects, engineers and related consultants for these sorts of small dollar projects.

In a direct appointment, there is no need to first rank firms in terms of best qualified before talking price. Instead, qualification and price are discussed in an email or telephone call. The entire negotiation process can be done in one or two emails or phone calls.

HB 4119 creates an inefficient procurement process for smaller contracts and is unnecessary. For that reason the City of Beaverton opposes the bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Kirby". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bill Kirby  
City Attorney