



BALZHISER & HUBBARD
ENGINEERS

Mechanical • Electrical • Civil • Surveying

February 3, 2014

House Business and Labor Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Balzhiser & Hubbard Engineers, Inc. (BHE) in support of HB 4119. This bill will help ensure the best use of public funds by clarifying that public agencies in Oregon hire engineers, architects and other design professionals based upon qualifications and not a bidding process.

BHE was founded in 1954, and we currently employ 21 professional-level staff. We are certified as a woman-owned business in Oregon for Civil Engineering services. We provide Mechanical, Electrical, and Civil Engineering and Land Surveying services. We focus on K-12, higher education, and civic/governmental projects. We have provided services to many city and county governments, state agencies, school districts throughout the state, and community college and university higher education systems in Oregon. We are focused on high quality design by our most experienced staff and providing our clients the best short- and long-term solutions. Our experience has shown us that projects that hire based on qualifications instead of a bid process have better outcomes through the design and construction. This process is much more beneficial to small firms than price bidding.

Qualification based selection (QBS) is endorsed by the American Public Works Association and has been the law in Oregon and throughout the country for years. This bill is a technical fix and will clarify rules adopted following the passage of HB 3316 that passed unanimously in 2011.

I urge your support of HB 4119. This bill will simplify the procurement process for public agencies in Oregon on smaller projects by allowing a direct appointment for projects with less than \$100,000 in design fees.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 4119.

Sincerely,

Monica B. Anderson, P.E.
President, Civil Engineering Discipline Manager