

February 17, 2015



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Senate Committee on Workforce  
Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Opposition to SB 414

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

JIM CLINTON  
*Mayor*

SALLY RUSSELL  
*Mayor Pro Tem*

NATHAN BODDIE  
*City Councilor*

VICTOR CHUDOWSKY  
*City Councilor*

CASEY ROATS  
*City Councilor*

DOUG KNIGHT  
*City Councilor*

BARB CAMPBELL  
*City Councilor*

ERIC KING  
*City Manager*

The City of Bend opposes SB 414 because it would impose additional impediments to an already complicated system for justifying public contracts. The City understands the desire to protect public employment and the concerns of its employees and other employees around the state, but does not agree that making public contracting more onerous is the correct approach to preserving public jobs. The 2009 requirement to require a comparative cost analysis has been onerous to comply with and consume significant staff time and public funds.

The proposed amendments make it too easy to challenge a government's public contracting decisions. The requirement to have a process for creating cost estimates and the requirement to update the cost analysis if someone disputes it add further delay. The proposed regulations have the potential to hold up major projects for months if not years. Not only that, but they could force local governments to face the additional cost of defending cases in Salem rather than in the local circuit court.

The proposed legislation would require an additional round of a public contracting process, which adds to the cost of the project and adds delay and staff time to the project. The City strongly urges that SB 414 not be advanced.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric King".

Eric King, City Manager  
City of Bend