



TO: House Consumer Protection & Government Effectiveness Committee
FROM: City of Medford, Cindy Robert
DATE: March 23, 2015
RE: Opposition to HB 3321 & HB 3322

The City of Medford would like to share with you our concerns about HB 3321 & HB 3322 regarding public contracting agency practices.

The majority of Public Works projects in Medford are contracted out. Road paving, sealing, construction and maintenance as well as intersection construction and large sewer projects cannot be done by City employees. In addition, a majority of facilities remodels and renovation are contracted out. Our parks department is in a similar situation, with construction and rehabilitation being done by outside contractors rather than City staff. We estimate that about 80% of projects the City engages in are in fact contracted out as it would be impossible to have the resources available on staff.

While we question the unfunded mandate that comes with HB 3321, we assure you that much of the factual information required in the bill is already available to someone providing an open records request. The graphic representations the bill asks for are more onerous and require additional resources to complete. The City of Medford, like most cities, finds itself under fiscal constraints that leave us under staffed, making the mere thought of fulfilling the requirements of this bill tremendously troubling.

The obligation to conduct studies that comes with HB 3322 is equally concerning staff wise. The bill would easily require us to add one full-time employee to comply just for administration aspects and not including the cost of expertise needed for actual studies, analysis and benefits comparison requirements in the bill.

As public servants responsible to our taxpayers, we are concerned about an actual or perceived problem with current contracting processes. We have not heard such worries in our area, but are interested in learning what is going on elsewhere that these bills purport to resolve. As always, the City of Medford stands ready to help resolve problems that Oregon citizens have brought forward.

Thank you for your public service.