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March 1, 2017

Senate Business and Transportation Committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Beyer:

I am writing to urge your opposition on SB 382.

Mott MacDonald, formerly Hatch Mott MacDonald, is an award-winning, employee-owned multi discipline engineering, design, program and construction management firm with a strong reputation for technical excellence, innovation, and responsiveness. We established an office in Portland in 2004 and currently have 12 employees in this office. Our roots go back more than 150 years of performing work for both private and public clients.

In our experience qualifications based selection (QBS) projects are better for the taxpayer, the project owner and the design and construction team. QBS assures that the selected engineering team complies with the best of current engineering, design, management and quality control and assurance practices resulting in a better overall project to optimize life cycle project cost and to minimize disputes and litigation. Low bid construction procurements provide an excellent comparison where the contractor offering the lowest price is selected without consideration for experience and qualifications. Many of these contracts end up over budget due to changes and cost overruns and frequently end up in claims and litigation adding more cost than originally anticipated. Using this approach for engineering procurements will inevitably result in fewer staff hours, to keep costs down, which in turn can result in less quality control, construction cost overruns due to items missed during the design. QBS is by far the best approach to assure quality deliverables, best practices and an overall good product.

Other key points:

- SB 382 will eliminate the use of a Quality Based Selection approach and a large number of engineering and design projects. This goes against the policy of the American Public Works Association (APWA) which is the largest and most recognized professional group of public works professions in America.
- APWA policy states that QBS results in better projects from design through construction.
- Price bidding the design portion of projects oftentimes will ensure the lowest price, not the better quality, is the driver for awarding the project.
- QBS creates a positive partnership between the owner and the designer resulting in the best outcome for Oregon taxpayers. QBS is proven procurement process. SB 382 decimates this proven best practice for procuring design professionals.
- We, as a firm and members of ACEC endorse an ongoing educational effort with state and local governments.

Thank you for your consideration of our position on SB 382. It is important for Oregon's limited and valuable public works funding that we select design professionals in the manner that best serves the public interest. Qualifications based selection is proven and should be the procurement process for all publicly funded Oregon projects. Please oppose SB 382.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul J. Heydenrych', written over a horizontal line.

Paul J. Heydenrych PE
Vice President