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February 28, 2017

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

Vote No on SB 382

As President of a small, Portland-based engineering firm, I am writing to express my opposition to SB 382. When the QBS bill for local agencies was passed in 2011, the intent of the \$100,000 direct appoint limit was to allow agencies the flexibility of selecting professional design services quickly and efficiently for smaller projects. However, direct appoint did not mean that QBS rules should be ignored. Since 2011 many local agencies have interpreted the \$100,000 limit to mean they can ask for price when selecting a design firm. The result has been exactly what the Federal government was attempting to avoid by implementing the QBS law decades ago – the bidding of engineering services.

Local agencies argue that without the ability to ask for price they cannot protect limited taxpayer dollars. The reality is that the bidding of design services results in poorly designed projects, costly construction change orders, and excessive long-term project life-cycle costs. QBS saves money.

SB 382 is nothing more than an attempt by local agencies to bid professional services for design work up to \$500,000 – a clear violation of State and Federal QBS laws. QBS (and direct appointment without asking for price) is also strongly endorsed by APWA, the American Bar Association, AGC and many others in the design and construction profession.

Please vote no on SB 382. Taxpayers will receive the greatest value and safety when all projects in Oregon use QBS for the design of our state's infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Vessely". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "A".

Andy Vessely, P.E.
President