



March 1, 2017

Senator Lee Beyer, Chair
Senate Committee on Business & Transportation

RE: SB 382 – Qualification Based Selection

Senator Beyer and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to ask you to support SB 382 and raise the threshold of contract price at which a contracting agency may directly appoint an architect, engineer, photogrammetrist, transportation planner or land surveyor to \$500,000.

The passage of this bill will provide agencies cost savings in terms of hard dollars through the contract negotiation process and staff time. It will also aid the project deliverables in terms of being more efficient and allowing shorter time frames to on-board a consultant.

Architects and engineers should be upfront with their pricing and cities should not have to wait until an initial offer is made to find out what any service would cost.

Cities are at a disadvantage in not being able to review upfront a proposer's price on projects. The current ORS has eliminated the option for local agencies to ask for a level of effort in hours from consultants. In the past we used this level of effort to judge whether the consultants truly understood the project scope and it was a great tool for comparing proposals from various consultants. Negotiations were easy and efficient after a consultant was selected since there was a mutual expectation of what the scope would be.

I urge your support of this bill that allows us to continue to be good stewards of public funds in the contracting process.

Sincerely,

Jayne McMahan
Procurement and Contract Manager
City of Springfield