



February 5, 2018

House Committee on Business and Labor
Oregon State Legislature

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City Council of Lake Oswego, I urge you to support HB 4127, which would even the playing field in the interest of taxpayers by allowing cities to consider cost in a decision to award a professional services contract.

We have always acknowledged that cost is just one of many factors in a decision to retain an architect or engineering firm. As a city investing in a number of very expensive capital improvement projects—a new city hall and police station, a major upgrade to Boones Ferry Road, and a number of other street, parks, and utility projects—total project cost is a real concern. We owe it to our taxpayers to be prudent in hiring professional service firms, and the ability to weigh cost along with the experience and qualifications of the firms being considered is critical.

In my own experience in the private sector, it would be unheard of to make a tentative selection of a consultant without having any information on cost, which is the situation the state now imposes on cities. I doubt private architecture and engineering firms themselves would accept this kind of restriction when selecting their own subcontractors.

Again, please support HB 4127, or even better, eliminate state interference in the way that home rule cities choose to award contracts.

Sincerely,

Kent Studebaker
MAYOR

Cc: Representative Andrea Salinas
Lake Oswego City Council