



CITY OF GRESHAM

Testimony in Support of HB 4127
February 5, 2018

The Honorable Paul Holvey, Chair
Members of the House Committee on Business and Labor

The City of Gresham strongly supports HB 4127, which would improve Oregon's Qualifications-Based Selection system for engineering and architectural services. Under current statute, local governments seeking external engineering and architectural services must conduct a selection process based on qualifications alone. Only once the responding firms are scored and ranked according to qualifications can a local jurisdiction ask for pricing information. If the pricing information of the most qualified firm is untenable, the jurisdiction can move to the next most qualified firm, but cannot ask the firms to submit competitive pricing information.

The real-world consequence of this statutory limitation is that the public loses out on an opportunity for price competition when procuring engineering and architectural services, meaning that they do not benefit from free market competitions like they do in most public-sector selection processes.

The City of Gresham supports the emphasis statute places on qualification in these important services, and supports HB 4127 because it artfully allows for some price competition amongst highly qualified firms. In this way, it captures the best of both worlds by first identifying the most qualified firms, and then asking them to engage in a round of competitive pricing. This is an excellent opportunity for compromise, and ensures that projects will be safe and of a high-quality, while also ensuring that the public's financial investment goes as far as possible.

The City of Gresham strongly supports this legislation and urges your support. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eric Chambers
Government Relations Director