



**February 7, 20018**

**Before the  
House Committee on Business and Labor**

**In support of HB 4127**

**Jim McCauley, Government Relations Manager, Washington County**

On behalf of the Washington County Board of Commissioners and Clean Water Services I want express our support for HB 4127.

This bill has been crafted to provide local governments the ability to use cost as a factor when determining the award of professional contracts. It is a needed change to the existing system, which does not allow for this consideration until after the award of the contract.

Washington County and Clean Water Services have many projects during any given year(s) where professional contracts post award require weeks if not months to negotiate the cost. From our perspective the current system adds cost with little or no appreciable value to the project.

Under HB 4127 much of the system in place today will still exist. The option that HB 4127 provides requires an additional step once qualified contractors are selected. There is an additional step required of the bids to provide a financial cost to the service being provided.

This step provides us with the confidence a contractor pool will be selected and allow the County or Clean Water Services the ability to also evaluate the costs associated with the services.