

February 8, 2018

House Business and Labor Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Attn: Honorable Chair Paul Holvey and members of the House Business and Labor Committee

RE: OPPOSITION LETTER TO HB 4127

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

I am writing to urge your strong opposition to HB 4127.

Our firm has 27 employees and has been in business in Oregon since 1954. We strongly oppose price bidding of engineering services and urge you to oppose HB 4127.

HB 4127 allows bidding of design services, which negatively impacts both Oregon taxpayers and our already limited and inadequate funding for public works projects. It goes against the long-standing Qualification Based Selection (QBS), which is supported, among others, by the American Public Works Association, and the American Bar Association. We anticipate that HB 4127 will render QBS obsolete.

HB 4127 is a solution to an unidentified problem. The American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) will work with local government clients and their advocates prior to the 2019 legislative session to discuss real projects and how the QBS process helped or potentially hurt the design, construction, and life-cycle of those projects. The issue is too nuanced to find a common resolution during the short 2018 session.

ACEC Oregon asks the House Business Committee and the legislative leadership to appoint a task force on the issue. This will allow all sides to discuss the issue in a setting that will lead to a much better understanding of what the current law allows and how it might be improved upon for the 2019 legislative session.

Sincerely,

SHANNON & WILSON, INC.



Risheng "Park" Piao
Vice President