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Date: February 8, 2018

Subject: Opposition letter to HB 4127

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 112 employees and has been in business in Oregon since 1991. We strongly oppose price bidding of engineering services and urge you to oppose HB 4127.

HB 4127 allows bidding of design services which is a major step backwards for Oregon taxpayers and our limited and inadequate funding for public works projects and it goes against the long-standing Qualification Based Selection (QBS) procurement methodology. QBS is supported by the American Public Works Association, the American Bar Association and many other organizations in the built environment.

HB 4127 allows all government entities in the state to use either traditional QBS or a bidding process that pits up to five firms against each other to guess at the project scope and appropriate fees to design the project. Getting five bids is a major waste of time, money and has the potential for delay, confusion and extra costs for all involved. The result will be selection of a firm that will likely not be the most qualified, and will likely be more costly to taxpayers in the end once we account for potential design amendments, design errors, and construction change orders.

ACEC Oregon asks the House Business Committee and the legislative leadership to appoint a task force on the issue where all sides can discuss the issue in a setting that will lead to a much better understanding of what the current law allows and then possible legislation or other solutions for the 2019 legislative session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian K Copeland", written over a horizontal line.

Brian K Copeland, PE, P.T.O.E
Principal