
PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS OF OREGON TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB4127

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Rep. Holvey and Members of the Committee:

The Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon (PLSO) represents Oregon's registered, practicing Professional Land Surveyors. Our association is affiliated with the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS), and has nearly 600 members.

Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) is a well-researched and highly effective standard to ensure public bodies procure professional services from highly qualified professionals, rather than selecting important services based solely on price. While we understand the importance of government bodies being sensitive to price when purchasing products and services, the purchase of certain professional services should be based on a different set of criteria – one based on the qualifications, experience and capabilities of the professionals. Designing bridges, buildings and other large public infrastructure projects should not be “on the cheap”. Nor should the equally important work of defining the land and legal boundaries between entities. Taxpayers deserve better when investing their hard-earned money.

It's a well-worn cliché, but if you need a heart transplant, you don't necessarily want to hire the cheapest heart surgeon available. *PLSO opposes House Bill 4127.*

House Bill 4127 creates a diversion from the current statutory requirement to use QBS when contracting with certain design professionals. This untried process is not used by any other state. This would be an experiment.

PLSO does not believe this experiment -- which is *not* the product of a consensus-building work group process -- should be rushed through the short Legislative Session with truncated public hearings in both chambers, and no time for the kind of careful deliberations and negotiations a policy change of this magnitude deserves.

PLSO is committed to working with all stakeholders in the interim with the goal of searching for possible policy changes which will address the concerns of local governments without gutting the essential value of a qualifications-based selection process.

*Professional Land Surveyors of Oregon asks that no action be taken on HB4127 this session.
I am happy to answer any questions you have on the bill. Thank you.*

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