

February 9, 2018

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

RE: Vote No on HB 4127

My name is Wayne Bauer, the Director of Transportation for WHPacific. WHPacific is a consulting firm working in the transportation business. We have a lengthy history in Oregon, having been in business for 50 years. We are experienced in the selection processes used by local agencies and ODOT, and in particular with the Oregon's Qualifications-Based Selection process. I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 4127. QBS has proven to be an effective procurement methodology that ensures the fair treatment of all consultants in the selection process and best use of Oregon's public works funds.

Ours and other consulting businesses understand the benefits of the current system, which is threatened by the proposed HB 4127 legislation. The new transportation funding package (HB 2017) requires effective delivery of numerous projects. QBS is the right way to select professional design firms for project completion to meet schedule and budget constraints.

KEY POINTS:

- **Price Based Selection** – HB 4127 is a drastic change to Oregon's current very fair procurement methodology. Design costs cannot be determined at the procurement stage of the project.
- **Bad for Taxpayers** – Bidding design services has proven to be problematic on public works projects. Lowest price design limits opportunities to find cost-savings through innovation and new ideas, leading to increased maintenance and construction costs.
- **Agency / Design Firm Partnership** – QBS, not bidding, creates a positive partnership between the owner and the designer. This allows for the best project outcomes for Oregon taxpayers.

This poorly conceived procurement methodology will create unintended consequences and will ultimately cost taxpayers. This issue is too complicated for the short timeframe of the February 2018 session. We encourage involving ACEC to reconsider the need for QBS legislation in the 2019 session, with more time available

I represent 50 other professionals in our Portland office of WHPacific in stating opposition to HB4127. Please contact me at your convenience at (503) 372-3520 (phone) or wbauer@whpacific.com (email) to discuss this further.

Sincerely,



Wayne Bauer

Director of Transportation