



DAVID EVANS  
AND ASSOCIATES INC.

February 9, 2018

Subject: **Opposition to HB 4127**

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

My name is Molly Davis. I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 4127. Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) process has proven to be an effective procurement method that ensures Oregon's public works funds are used to provide the best value engineering services. Considering the new 2017 transportation funding package, effective delivery of public works projects is extremely important to the success of the comprehensive package. QBS is the right way to procure services of professional design firms.

A few key points for consideration:

**HB 4127 shifts the method to price based selection.** This goes against the policy of the American Public Works Association, which is the largest and most recognized association of public work professionals in America.

**HB 4127 is bad for small businesses in Oregon.** Bidding creates barriers for small, emerging and minority owned professional service businesses to get a fair opportunity in the market place.

**HB 4127 is bad for Oregon taxpayers.** Bidding for design services has proven to be problematic on public works projects. A lowest price model for selecting design firms limits opportunities to find a cost-savings through innovation and new ideas. The cost for changes during construction exponentially outweigh cost for innovation during design.

As a professional engineer, I thrive in the opportunity to be creative and innovative for the public works clients I serve. Bidding for projects will not facilitate the opportunity for me and my peers explore long-term savings for our clients through innovation during design development.

The February 2018 session is too short of a session to develop the best solution for this complex issue. The interim prior to the 2019 legislative session will provide stakeholders a better opportunity to craft solutions that will best serve Oregon taxpayers, Oregon's public works projects and the many professionals who are committed to quality projects that are completed on time and on budget.

Sincerely,  
DAVID EVANS AND ASSOCIATES, INC.

Molly A. Davis, PE (OR)