



February 21, 2018

Senator Chuck Riley, Chair
Senate Committee on General Government & Accountability
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 4127-A

Senator Riley and Members of the Committee:

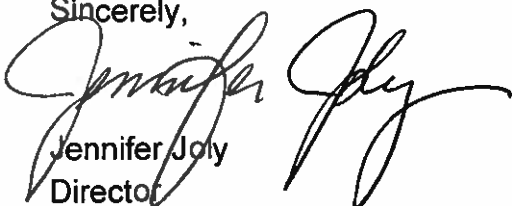
The Oregon Municipal Electric Utilities Association (OMEU) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of HB 4127-A, relating to the consultant selection process for professional services. OMEU is made up of 11 municipally-owned and operated electric utilities.

HB 4127-A provides a common-sense option for public agencies contracting for architectural, engineering, photogrammetric mapping, transportation planning and land surveying services. Importantly, the bill levels the playing for public agencies in the negotiation process by allowing price information to be requested of qualified consultants prior to opening negotiations.

The passage of this bill will provide cost savings to our utility ratepayers through a more balanced contract negotiation process. Architects and engineers should be upfront with their pricing and public agencies should not have to wait until an initial offer is made to find out what any service would cost. Pricing information is a critical component for assessing whether the consultants truly understand the project scope and provides an important basis for comparison among qualified consultants.

Our ratepayers expect and deserve the stewardship the procurement option in HB 4127-A allows. OMEU urges your support.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Joly
Director

1201 COURT ST. NE, SUITE 102 • SALEM, OREGON 97301 • (971) 600-6976 • E-MAIL: jenniferjoly@omeu.org