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Date: February 22, 2018

Subject: Another Engineer Opposed to HB 4127-A

Senate Committee on General Government and Accountability,

I am writing to urge your strong opposition to HB 4127-A. The engineering firm I work for has 112 employees and has been in business in Oregon since 1991. I have lived in Oregon my entire life, and am personally vested in providing the best engineering services to the residents of Oregon at competitive prices. ***If passed, HB 4127 will prevent this from happening and, as a result, will hurt the State of Oregon and its taxpayers.***

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. It also 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 for a good reason: it makes sense. Too many times agencies are faced with design changes or construction change orders, because they selected the lowest bid instead of the most qualified.

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. ***In my 12 plus years in the engineering industry, I have seen the results of bidding design services: the***



selection of an engineering firm that is under-qualified and whose work leads to poor quality and costly change orders. In the end, I have seen this process cost more than delivery under the current QBS process. I believe that if you invest the time and understand the benefit of QBS, you would never vote for this poorly crafted legislation that will hurt the state of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Nate Schroeder, PE, PTOE

Design Group Manager | Senior Project Manager