



February 22, 2018

Senate Committee on General Government and Accountability

**RE: HB 4127A – Qualification Based Selection**

Chair Riley and Members of the Senate Committee on General Government and Accountability:

Thank you for your continued service to the State of Oregon and your leadership in the state Legislature. On behalf of Lane Council of Governments members: Lane County, the cities of Coburg, Cottage Grove, Creswell, and Springfield, and the Eugene Water and Electric Board, I ask that you support HB 4127A, which will improve accountability and transparency in public contracting.

Qualification-Based Selection (QBS) for the procurement of engineering, architecture, photogrammetric mapping, transportation planning, and land surveying services, was originally established by the U.S. Congress in 1972. Many states, including Oregon, have adopted their own versions.

LCOG's members are committed to providing the best value services for the public and ensuring good stewardship of taxpayer dollars, while still maintaining high qualifications for public projects. Currently, because cost cannot be a consideration, some of my members have had experiences where they have chosen a contractor and then could not come to an agreement on cost, causing the local government to go out for bid again. This delays projects, and can result in increased costs all around.

HB 4127A would allow local governments to consider pricing information when making decisions about awarding architecture and engineering professional services contracts. The current QBS process requires that contract awards be based solely on qualifications, and prevents the consideration of price, limiting control over limited public dollars. HB 4127A would allow local governments to consider pricing in the selection process, providing increased transparency and accountability, better access and competition, and would promote government efficiency in the procurement of certain professional services.

We urge a "YES" vote for HB 4127A. Thank you for your consideration. We greatly appreciate your tireless support and your commitment to Oregon.

Sincerely,

Brenda Wilson

Executive Director of the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG)