

Another Engineer in Opposition to HB 4127-A

EUGENE, OR
Corporate Office
541.683.6090

February 22, 2018

LAKE OSWEGO, OR
503.620.6103

Dear Senator,

SALEM, OR
503.589.4100

I am writing to urge your strong opposition to HB 4127-A.

MEDFORD, OR
541.774.5590

OBEC Consulting Engineers has 92 employees and has been an Oregon business since 1966. We strongly oppose price bidding of engineering services and urge you to oppose HB 4127.

VANCOUVER, WA
360.314.2391

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HB 4127-A allows bidding of design services which is a major step backwards for Oregon taxpayers and our limited and inadequate funding for public works projects. HB 4127-A goes against the long standing Qualification Based Selection (QBS) procurement methodology. QBS is supported by the Federal Acquisition Rules (FAR), the American Public Works Association, the American Bar Association and many other organizations in the built environment.

HB 4127-A threatens an efficient and quality delivery of the 2017 transportation package. Oregon cannot afford another government debacle when spending taxpayer funds.

HB 4127-A is a clever bill draft that allows QBS or bidding. We anticipate that the bidding option will make QBS obsolete by many agencies.

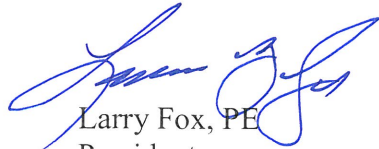
HB 4127-A is a solution to a yet unidentified problem. Defeat this bill and let's discuss the issue in detail to determine what the problems are with QBS and collaborate on specific solutions to do so.

HB 4127-A 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. And, by allowing two different procurement options, it is fair to assume that the vast majority of projects will be bid and possibly low bid.

The American Council of Engineering Companies is committed to working with our local government clients and their advocates during the interim prior to the 2019 legislative session to do a deep dive on the QBS process. We could discuss real projects and how the QBS process helped or potentially hurt the design, construction and life-cycle costs of the project. We believe the issue is too complex to find a common resolution during the short 2018 session.

ACEC Oregon asks the legislative leadership to appoint a task force where all sides can discuss the issue in a setting that will lead to a much better understanding of what the current law allows and then possible legislation or other solutions for the 2019 legislative session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Larry Fox", is positioned above the typed name.

Larry Fox, PE
President