

February 22, 2018

RE: Oppose 4127

Dear Chair Riley and Members of the Committee

As CEO of Kittelson & Associates, Inc., a headquartered and home-grown Oregon business, I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB4127. This bill is a case-study of what not to do in the short session. The issue of Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) is too complex, and controversial, to be properly debated in the limited time allowed during the short session.

QBS, which is the topic of HB4127, sets the rules under which Professional Services (Architects, Engineers, and Surveyors) are procured for Public contracts. Under the current ORS 279C, price is only considered after the selection of the most qualified firm is selected, allowing us and the Agency to develop a comprehensive, and complete, scope of work that we can then price out. Only through negotiation are we able to match our scope to the Agencies budget, and vision, to result in a successful project that isn't subject to costly change orders and hasty design driven by low-cost bids.

I understand the position of HB4127 supporters and know that our industry, ACEC Oregon, and its membership have committed to working together to develop better solutions during the longer 2019 work session. I believe accelerating a bill in a short session behind closed doors with limited opportunity for ACEC Oregon and others to comment is the wrong way to go about creating new legislation and ultimately results in poor process and poor policy.

I urge you to vote no and advocate for a more collaborate workgroup during the 2019 session which all parties can better identify problems and create solutions together.

I offer my assistance to better help you understand the importance of this issue. Please contact me at your convenience at (503)228-5230 or mvandehey@kittelison.com to discuss this further.

Sincerely,



Mark Vandehey, PE
Chief Executive Officer