

February 22, 2018

Dear Senator,

I am writing this letter to express my opposition to HB 4127-A.

As a lifetime resident of Oregon and an engineer for over 25 years, I can confidently say that this bill is not in the best interests of the residents of this state. Consider these points:

- You can't compare engineering design like cars on a car lot. You won't know what you have until the project is complete. No one looks for the cheapest price, they look for the best value, so select critical infrastructure based on price? Would you hire the cheapest surgeon?
- One must factor in construction and life-cycle costs, which are many times the cost of engineering. Hiring the cheapest engineer will only encourage designs that are the cheapest to design. Project performance, and construction and maintenance costs, may not be considered. The people of the state of Oregon will only risk underperforming infrastructure which may be far more costly to construct and maintain than any savings on the design end.
- Many public works staff and municipal engineers that I work with agree that this is a bad bill, but they cannot oppose it, as their political and administrative leaders think it is in their best interest. The on-the-ground municipal staff know this is a bad bill.
- The bill as written will allow any kind of contracting that any municipality wishes to use, regardless of whether it is in the best interests of the public.
- To say that QBS is cumbersome and limits consideration of cost is not accurate. Upon establishing a qualified pool of firms, agencies can negotiate fees with these firms. If they don't reach agreement with a qualified firm on a project, they can move on to the next firm to negotiate an agreement. And under the current dollar threshold (\$100,000 in fees which equates to about a \$1,000,000 project) they can direct appoint or use whatever other method consistent with their local contracting rules.

Please reject this bill and support an interim workgroup to draft a bill for the 2019 session that both the municipal sector and the engineering community develop jointly together.

Sincerely,



Tim Blackwood, PE

OR #52838PE