DKS

22 Feb 18

Subject: Another Engineer Opposed to HB 4127-A

Senate Committee on General Government and Accountability,

I urge you to oppose HB 4127-A.

Our engineering firm has worked throughout Oregon since 1991. We have completed several thousand contracts for state, county and city agencies in urban and rural areas of Oregon. We believe that the best engineering services are provided to our clients when we compete with other consulting firms based on the proven excellence of experience and our recommended approach to solve their problems.

HB 4127 allows bidding of design services which is a major step backwards for Oregon taxpayers because it will waste our limited and inadequate funding for public works projects. Furthermore, it 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.

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. This bidding process 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 costlier to taxpayers in the end once we account for potential design amendments, design errors, and construction change orders*.*

In my over 35 years in the engineering industry, I have seen too many cases where a price bidding process gives the agency an under-qualified firm and whose work leads to poor quality and costly change orders.

I ask you to vote no on HB 4127 because it is poorly crafted legislation that will hurt the state of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Carl D. Springer, PE, P.T.O.E
Principal