

Mayor
Honorable Lori Chavez-DeRemer



City Manager
Jason A. Tuck, ICMA-CM

February 26, 2018

Hon. Sen. Chuck Riley
Senate Committee on General Government and Accountability
900 Court Street NE, Salem, OR 97301

Re: House Bill 4127

Dear Chair Riley, Vice Chair Hass, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Happy Valley, I urge your support for HB 4127, inclusive of the -1 amendment. Under existing law, the Qualification-Based Selection (QBS) process is inflexible, failing to account for price competition in the selection of qualified firms. HB 4127 enhances procurement law by permitting contracting agencies to consider pricing elements, encouraging a more well-rounded screening of qualified firms, as well as free market competition.

HB 4127 will strongly benefit emerging urban areas like Happy Valley. Happy Valley has been one of Oregon's fast-growing communities for well over a decade. In an effort to keep up with the current workload, the City utilizes consultants for engineering, transportation planning, and other support services. Looking into the future, the City seeks to build a new community center, public works facility, community policing center, conduct comprehensive planning in its eastern area, and perform several transportation safety enhancements throughout the City. Each of these projects will require assistance from consulting services. The linear QBS process slows the contracting process, especially when a consultant's costs are prohibitive. As a result, capital improvement projects may be delayed. Rather, HB 4127 permits the City to assess the cost features of qualified firms upfront, contributing to faster, more successful negotiations.

Upfront cost assessments will help the City deliver more cost-effective projects, achieving more from existing resources in lieu of going to taxpayers for additional funding. Further, allowing the City to request cost features from up to three contractors at a time encourages stronger market competition, as well as process transparency. For these reasons, I urge the Senate Committee on General Government and Accountability to support HB 4127, inclusive of the -1 amendment, and issue a **DO-PASS** recommendation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Lori Chavez-DeRemer'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name of the Mayor.

Lori Chavez-DeRemer
Mayor

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