



AIA Oregon

A Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

TO: Senate Business & General Government Committee
FROM: Curt Wilson, Legislative Chair
DATE: April 18, 2019
RE: Support for HB 2769

Nationally, architects have advocated strongly for the *Qualifications* part of the QBS process and achieving the current requirements took years of hard work. However, we realized we could no longer ignore the concerns of public agencies, whom are either our current clients or potential future clients. It was time to talk about modernizing QBS to meet everyone's needs.

I was proud to join my industry partners, the various municipalities and public agency groups to engage in the collaborative dialogue that led to this concept. We all came to the table with an understanding that we were going to give up something, but in exchange, could achieve collective improvements. As a group, we listened to each other, stressed our common interests, and developed solutions to mitigate the concerns of others.

Testimony you will receive outlines the revisions to the selection process to which we agreed. As an architect, I want to focus on the fact that HB 2769 improves the requirements for greater definition by the agency of the project requirements and anticipated services they expect from us, which will allow the design teams to provide cost proposals that are more comparable, and ultimately more equitable. A sufficiently detailed scope of work is a high priority for architects.

Additionally, you should know that our workgroup agreed that a successful QBS process in Oregon will require us to continue to work together after the legislation passes. We will focus on a 3-part program, which includes:

1. Develop best practices and template RFP documents
2. Conduct joint training so the process works better for everyone, and
3. Evaluate the performance of the program and discuss areas of improvement.

The development of best practices procedures and sample documents will allow us to help communicate the types of information that local governments can provide that will be most useful for design professionals in preparing fee proposals.

With the leadership of Representative McLain, bridges were built between design professionals and public contracting agencies resulting in this concept that will be better for the public. AIA Oregon is committed to supporting this legislation through passage and to continuing problem solving with the public agencies in the coming months.