



**PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**OFFICE OF DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT**  
**Business and Operations**  
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February 23, 2021

Re: Testimony supporting HB 3082

Chair Wilde, Vice Chairs Lively and Leif, and members of the House General Government Committee,

Portland Public Schools supports HB 3082, which would increase the competitive procurement threshold from \$5,000 to \$10,000 on public improvement projects.

As a public agency with a large stock of older buildings, raising the threshold to \$10,000 will allow direct appointment on our smallest public improvement projects, creating efficiencies and the ability to more quickly address the minor needs that constantly arise in our district.

Additionally, very few public improvement projects can be completed for \$5,000 or less, so in effect, the current threshold is almost meaningless since we must obtain quotes on nearly every tiny project.

Raising the threshold to \$10,000 will allow direct appointment of more small projects to Certified minority-owned, women-owned, and emerging small businesses, helping them grow into larger, sustainable businesses able to take on larger projects.

Finally, this simple change would bring the competitive procurement threshold for public improvements in line with the competitive procurement threshold for basic services, including maintenance and minor repairs that do not qualify as public improvements. We believe that aligning procurement thresholds promotes clarity and compliance across our district.

We urge your support of HB 3082.

Sincerely,

Claire Hertz  
Deputy Superintendent for Business and Operations  
Portland Public Schools

