



Metro

AOC

Association of
Oregon Counties

SDAO Special Districts
Association of Oregon

Local Government Associations Support HB 3082

February 22, 2021

Chair Wilde; Vice-Chairs Leif & Lively; Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the League of Oregon Cities, Oregon School Boards Association, Association of Oregon Counties, Special Districts Association of Oregon, Metro and other individual local governments, we appreciate the opportunity to share our support for HB 3082.

ORS Chapter 279 outlines how public contracting agencies, including local governments, shall proceed with the procurement of goods and services and construction services. ORS 279B (goods and services) and ORS 279C (public improvements/construction services) include similar language that outlines when a public contracting must use a competitive bid process. While the competitive bid processes are very similar across the two sub-chapters of statute, the small project threshold between the two chapters is inconsistent. ORS 279B requires a competitive bid process for the procurement of goods/services in an amount over \$10,000; while ORS 279C requires a competitive bid process for all public improvement contracts over \$5,000. HB 3082 will make these thresholds consistent by increasing the small project threshold in ORS 279C from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

We do not believe this legislation represents a significant policy change as there are not many contracts for public improvements/construction services that are under \$10,000. This legislation will create consistency in the thresholds and will provide additional clarity for contracting agencies. In addition, the competitive bid process can be time consuming and difficult to navigate for both the contracting agency and those who are submitting bids. Requiring competitive bids for projects under \$10,000, as is currently required under ORS 279C, can represent a process that is more costly for parties on both sides (the agency soliciting bids and those submitting bids) than the value of the contract.

We appreciate the Oregon Public Procurement Association bringing this inconsistency to our attention and for introducing this legislation, and we urge the committee's support for HB 3082.

For questions, contact: Tracy Rutten Rainey, League of Oregon Cities (trutten@orcities.org)