



CITY OF GRESHAM

February 22, 2019

House Committee on Business and Labor
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Se. NE, HR 50
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 2769-1

Dear Chair Barker and Members of the Committee:

The City of Gresham strongly supports HB 2769-1, which would improve Oregon's Qualifications-Based Selection system for engineering and architectural services. Under current statute, local governments seeking external engineering and architectural services must conduct a selection process based on qualifications alone. Only once the responding firms are scored and ranked according to qualifications can a local jurisdiction ask for pricing information. If the pricing information of the most qualified firm is untenable, the jurisdiction can move to the next most qualified firm, but cannot ask the firms to submit competitive pricing information.

The City of Gresham supports the emphasis statute places on qualification in these important services, and supports HB 2769-1 because it artfully allows for some price competition amongst highly qualified firms. In this way, it captures the best of both worlds by first identifying the most qualified firms, and then asking them to engage in a round of competitive pricing. This is an excellent opportunity for compromise, and ensures that projects will be safe and of a high-quality, while also ensuring that the public's financial investment goes as far as possible.

The City of Gresham strongly supports this legislation and urges your support. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eric Chambers
Government Relations Director