

To: House Committee on Business and Labor
Re: Proponent for SB 341
Date: March 22, 2007

My name is Janet Pallister, and I am the Director of Finance and Operations for the Lewis and Clark County Public Works Department. I am here this morning as a proponent of SB 341.

Our county currently requests annual Statements of Qualification from architect, engineers, and land surveyors. We create a prequalified pool of consultants for these professional disciplines. Throughout the year this pool is used to select qualified consultants for a variety of projects.

The process of creating the document requesting qualifications, mailing requests to consultants, advertising for proposals, and then reviewing and scoring the responses we receive back takes a total of 120 hours of staff time each year.

By changing this statute to a biennial process, we will still be allowed to create a pool of prequalified consultants but will save staff time, which can be allocated to other projects.

Government entities will still have the option of asking for consultant qualifications on an individual project-by-project basis or through an annual statement of qualifications. The change simply provides for a third option of requesting qualifications biennially.

I request your support for SB 341.