



March 28, 2024

The Honorable Lori Wilson  
California State Assembly  
1020 O Street, Suite 8110  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **AB 1957 (Wilson): Public contracts: best-value contracting for counties  
As introduced 1/29/24 – SUPPORT  
Awaiting hearing: Assembly Local Government Committee**

Dear Assembly Member Wilson:

On behalf of the Urban Counties of California (UCC) and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), we write to express our support for Assembly Bill 1957, your measure that would authorize any county in the state to utilize the best-value contracting model and eliminates the statutory sunset on such authority. A number of our member counties were eligible under the previous pilot and wish to continue to be able to use the authority, and others are interested in utilizing the authority, as it has been a cost-effective and efficient method for completing important projects.

Pilot counties have shared that the use of best-value contracting has allowed for a selection of contractors based on qualifications and experience. Agreements require contractors to use a skilled and trained labor force, which allows work to be performed with a high degree of quality and expertise, contributing to better performance and expedited completion of highly complex projects. Further, these features also contribute to reduced project costs by potentially avoiding contractor errors, costly change orders, and redo of projects.

The award of best-value contracts and public projects in such a manner allows for the delivery of better projects with highly qualified firms with skilled labor, fewer change orders due to errors, and knowledgeable project management support to keep projects on time and on budget. Because of counties' positive experience with best-value contracting, our members appreciate the opportunity to continue to pursue such contracts; AB 1957 not only eliminates the statutory sunset on the authority, but rightfully expands the authority to utilize this beneficial tool to other counties in the state. As a result, UCC and RCRC support AB 1957 and greatly appreciates

your authorship of the measure. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions about our position.

Sincerely,



Jean Kinney Hurst  
Legislative Advocate  
Urban Counties of California



Sarah Dukett  
Policy Advocate  
Rural County Representatives of California

cc: The Honorable Juan Carrillo, Chair, Assembly Local Government Committee  
Members and Consultants, Assembly Local Government Committee