

September 12, 2017



Bill Frare, Chairman - Capital Projects Advisory Review Board
1500 Jefferson Street SE
Olympia, WA 98501

RE: INCORPORATING INCLUSION LANGUAGE IN CPARB PUBLIC AGENCY CERTIFICATIONS AND RE-CERTIFICATIONS

Dear Chairman Frare and CPARB Board Members,

We are the **National Minority Business Advisory Council (MBAC)**, a 501(c)(4) headquartered in Washington State, King County, positioned as a unifying voice in Washington State for minority business enterprises (MBE) on policy and public procurement reform. The mission of MBAC is to engage, inform, and empower MBEs to achieve public contract equity through advancing awareness of inequity, invoking accountability of Title VI of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964, and creating minority business advocacy efforts, both in this state and nationally, that advance equal opportunity in public contracting for our communities of color.

For the last six years MBAC has been an active community participant in CPARB's activities and fully engaged in CPARB's efforts in improving public contracting in Washington State. We write to you today to put our official request on record regarding the critically important issue of incorporating Washington State certified women and minority business inclusion language into all future CPARB public agency alternative public works procurement certification and alternative public works procurement re-certification.

MBAC and the National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMC) has a long history in working and advocating on these issues and concerns of our certified small disadvantaged businesses. Specifically, the work we have done collaboratively with the University of Washington's Critical Care alternative contracting certification renewal process over the last three years.

As you may be aware this past legislative session of 2017, MBAC and NAMC were asked by UW's Executive Leadership Team to partner with them in developing State policy language that would allow UW to use an alternative process for awarding contracts to avoid the 2017 sunset of CPARB's Critical Care certification. MBAC is proud of this legislative effort, which resulted in a Bill that passed in the House by a majority vote of 68 to 27 and in the Senate by an even larger majority vote of 45 to 4 (**Exhibit A - Senate Bill 5631 of 2017**). Bill 5631 of the 2017 legislative session was then signed into law by the Governor this past April 25th 2017.

Due to the success of this collaboration and show of good faith by UW, UW has committed to include all of the OMWBE certified women and minority owned business inclusion language in SB 5631 into all future CPARB approved alternative public works contracting certification and re-certification granted to UW.

We now ask that CPARB move forward in incorporating this OMWBE certified women and minority owned business inclusion language, adopted in this bi-partisan process in all of Washington State governmental agency certification and re-certification that CPARB approves and oversees.

Now, more than ever it is critical that this board take its responsibility to hold the public agencies that it approves for alternative works contracting accountable. Furthermore, it is MBAC's position that this board take seriously Governor Inslee's Results Washington inclusion commitment of 10% OMWBE certified minority owned firms, 6% OMWBE certified women owned firms and 5% Veteran owned firms (**Exhibit B -Results Washington Goal 4.1.a**) and take actual policy and process action to support initiatives that increase inclusion of certified small disadvantaged women and minority businesses

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Frank Lemos, President
National Minority Business Advisory Council (MBAC)

Enclosures: EXHIBIT A - Senate Bill 5631 of 2017
EXHIBIT B - Results Washington Goal 4.1.A - Quality of Life - Vibrant Communities

CC:

Andrew Thompson (Vice Chair)
Brent Lavender
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