

Testimony
Senate Commerce Committee
In Opposition to Senate Bill 107
February 15, 2015
Presented by Andy Sanchez

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns with SB 107. SB 107 would allow public entities such as councils, commissions, or boards the authority to pursue and approve projects without being subject to an open bid process by exception, if the project has the intent to reduce energy costs.

For our organization this is a matter of transparency and equal opportunity. Open bidding provides a built-in control system inherent with efficiency and effectiveness. Controls are maintained by the integrity of a competitive process such as the best possible market driven price, trust of the public, accountability and fairness. This should mean a lot to any governing board.

Open bidding is not only competitive but has withstood the test of time because it provides equal opportunity for bidders and it deflects any inquiries of wrong doing. Business is conducted “in the light of day” so everyone knows in advance what is happening and can follow and see how the process unfolds. This means no exposure to the test of scrutiny.

Finally, no one should be able to corner the market no matter how specialized, as this kills entrepreneurship. There are not enough of women, minorities and just young minds out there in numerous sectors. With this bill, they suddenly would have less opportunities. Business is not stagnant, they grow and expand into other markets. Let’s not limit the growth possibilities of individuals or business. Thank you for the opportunity to present our concerns in opposition to SB 107.