From:	Kubicek, Craig
To:	Kilgore, Robin
Cc:	Goins, Anthony
Subject:	Economic Development RFP
Date:	Tuesday, January 3, 2023 12:37:51 PM
Attachments:	RFP 114045 O3 REVISED.pdf

Good Afternoon,

As you may know, the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) has an anonymous hotline number and email for Nebraskans to raise issues about possible waste, mismanagement, or fraud within government. In connection with this, we help to provide accurate information to taxpayers and attempt to correct misperceptions about government. We try to do so in a timely manner, believing this to be a valuable service to the State's citizens.

Recently, we received some concerns regarding RFP 114045 O3 and how a provision therein for granting preference to HBCUs appears to conflict with the Nebraska State Constitution. The following is found on page 29 of the attached PDF of that RFP: "Detail how the Bidder will target regions across the U.S. to recruit students to Nebraska internships. The Department will preference, Bidders who include HBCUs."

Article I-30 ("Discrimination or grant of preferential treatment prohibited; public employment, public education, or public contracting; section, how construed; remedies.") of the Nebraska Constitution contains the following:

(1) The state shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of public employment, public education, or public contracting.

In order to assist us with the inquiry received, could you please tell me whether this constitutional prohibition against preferential treatment based on "race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in the operation of . . . public contracting" was taken into consideration when including the preferential language for HBCUs in RFP 114045 O3? If so, could you please explain how such language was determined to be in accordance with Article I-30?

Thank you very much for your assistance with this inquiry.

Sincerely,

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