

Gordian
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Greenville, SC 29615

March 15, 2022

Chairwoman Theresa Gavarone
Senate Local Government & Elections Committee
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square, 2nd Floor
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Support for Senate Bill 260

Dear Chairwoman Gavarone & Members of the Committee,

On behalf of *Gordian*, the nation's leading provider of construction and facilities data, software, and expertise, I write to offer support for Senate Bill 260 to reinstate the ability of Ohio political subdivisions to utilize cooperative purchasing for construction services.

Across the country, *Gordian* is comprised of hundreds of experts on construction pricing, facility conditions, and efficient procurement methods. We operate in all 50 states where we serve thousands of government clients and public entities such as federal agencies, state and local governments, K-12 educational institutions, colleges and universities, public healthcare institutions, airports, transit agencies and many others.

In August 2019, the Attorney General issued Opinion No. 2019-028 to detail political subdivisions' authority under R.C. 9.48(B) to utilize certain cooperative purchasing options and restrictions on others. As a result, local governments, school districts, and other public entities are unclear on their ability to use this efficient procurement method to its full potential. Cooperative purchasing consortiums have a long tradition in Ohio; however, the confusion amongst political subdivisions is resulting in Ohio localities being unable to achieve the time and cost savings of cooperatively procured construction.

Cooperative purchasing agreements, a best practice of the National Institute for Government Procurement, are a highly successful, cost-effective, and efficient procurement method that local governments and public entities across the nation have used for decades. Cooperative contracts are competitively bid to ensure that the products and services offered are provided by reliable vendors, competitively priced, and of high quality.

Senate Bill 260 would remedy the issue identified by the Attorney General in the statute to explicitly permit political subdivisions to utilize cooperatively procured construction services to save finite taxpayer funds, reduce administrative burden, and expedite project delivery. Prior to 2019, this common procurement

practice was routinely used by Ohio political subdivisions. Passing this legislation simply returns this widely used procurement tool to Ohio local governments and public entities.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to express *Gordian's* strong support of Senate Bill 260.

Sincerely,



Jacob Johnson
Vice President, Government & Regulatory Affairs
Gordian