

**Jeremy Schwartz**  
Chair  
Sourcewell

May 12, 2023

**Ar**  
Vice Chair  
OMNIA Partners

Rep. Brian Lampton  
77 South High Street  
Floor 13  
Columbus, OH 43215

Rep. Thomas Hall  
77 South High Street  
12<sup>th</sup> floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

**John Orlando**  
Treasurer  
E&I Cooperative  
Services

**Ronnie Barnes**  
HGAC-Buy

To: Ohio House of Representatives State and Local Government Committee.

**Dr. Chad Coauette**  
Sourcewell

Subject: **Support of HB 145**

**Eric Frank**  
E&I Cooperative  
Services

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB145**. The National Cooperative Procurement Partners (NCPP), North America's professional association for cooperative procurement represents cooperative organizations, construction companies and public procurement professionals.

**Doug Looney**  
OMNIA Partners

Cooperative or joint purchasing is used by municipalities across the nation as an established contracting method. This proposed legislation will allow Ohio school districts and political subdivisions to increase efficiencies and save taxpayer dollars for construction projects through cooperative contracting.

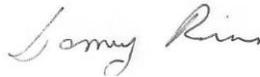
The benefits of cooperative procurement are well documented, including:

- Cooperative procurement adheres to public procurement rules, as a contracting method approved by the American Bar Association and the National Institute of Government Procurement. All processes and documents are accessible and comply with rules for transparency.
- Since government bids, particularly for construction, can take months to award, cooperative purchasing shortens the timeframe to obtain needed goods and services since the solicitation has already been done.
- For construction, in most cases, the actual work is performed by local contractors, keeping dollars within the community.
- Joint purchasing contract holders, by virtue of being units of government, are audited by the State Auditor or similar responsibility in their jurisdiction. This is a demonstration of good government oversight.

- There is no additional charge for a school district or political subdivision to use a cooperative contract. By their nature, cooperative contracts provide savings of time and administrative expenses.
- When agencies aggregate their combined spending power through a cooperative contract, it often delivers better pricing than they might have received through their own bid process, or from a smaller, regional cooperative contract.
- Emergencies can be handled quickly, as contracts are ready to use, with set pricing. Your government teams now have an extra tool to use in making decisions on how to quickly address these time-sensitive issue.

HB145 seeks to clarify the ability for Ohio political subdivisions to procure construction services through cooperative procurement. NCPP offers its full support of this proposed legislation to benefit local Ohio municipalities, school districts, and taxpayers.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tammy Rimes".

Tammy Rimes, MPA  
NCPP Executive Director