

Jeremy Schwartz
Chair
Sourcewell

April 8, 2024

Andrea Scobie
Vice Chair
OMNIA Partners

135th General Assembly Ohio Statehouse
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, Ohio 43215-4275

John Orlando
Treasurer
E&I Cooperative
Services

To: Members of the 135th Ohio General Assembly,

Ronnie Barnes
HGAC-Buy

The National Cooperative Procurement Partners (NCPP), North America's professional association for cooperative procurement represents cooperative organizations, construction companies and public procurement professionals and **offers its support for Senate Bill 23/House Bill 145.**

Dr. Chad Coauette
Sourcewell

Eric Frank
E&I Cooperative
Services

This proposed legislation will provide an effective contracting tool for your Ohio Procurement and Public Works teams by allowing school districts and political subdivisions to increase efficiencies and save taxpayer dollars through joint purchasing, a widely utilized method of government procurement. Senate Bill 23/House Bill 145 seeks to enhance the success of joint purchasing in Ohio by clarifying that the installation, repair, renovation, replacement, or maintenance of equipment, material, or supplies falls under R.C. 9.48. This clarification ensures that political subdivisions have the authority to participate in joint purchasing contracts for these services.

Doug Looney
OMNIA Partners

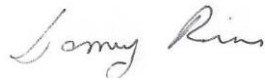
As a former government manager and procurement professional, I can personally testify to the benefits of cooperative procurement.

- Competition is still prevalent in cooperative procurement, and must adhere to public works bidding rules, resulting in a ready-to-go contract. This contracting method is approved by the American Bar Association and the National Institute of Government Procurement.
- When addressing a parking lot or basketball court that must be resurfaced during a timeframe when students aren't on campus; a leaky roof that is impacting a classroom, or a falling tree that takes out a recreation facility, government teams need a contracting tool to quickly address these issues. Traditional bidding takes too long to be effective in these unique situations.
- By virtue of being a public contract, all cooperative contracts are subject to audits by the State Auditor or similar responsibility in their jurisdiction. Cooperative contracts are probably the most vetted contracts in the public arena, as each contracting entity performs their own due diligence before using any cooperative contract.

- 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.
- 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 issues.

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