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February 27, 2023

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Vice Chair
OMNIA Partners

The Ohio Senate
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Treasurer
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Services

Senate Building
Columbus, OH 43215

Ronnie Barnes
HGAC-Buy

To: Members of the State of Ohio Senate Committee on Government Oversight

Dr. Chad Coauette
Sourcewell

Eric Frank
E&I Cooperative
Services

Subject: **Support of SB 23**

Doug Looney
OMNIA Partners

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony before the State of Ohio Senate Committee on Government Oversight. The National Cooperative Procurement Partners (NCPP), North America's professional association for cooperative procurement **supports** SB 23.

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:

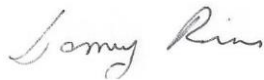
- The solicitation - from the advertisement and initial bid through the contract award process - is an open, transparent, and public government procurement process solicited by units of government for units of government. This contracting tool helps resource-strapped procurement teams and shortens the timeframe to obtain needed goods and services.
- Cooperative organizations who solicit and award contracts for national use must comply with public procurement procedures, and delivered services must comply with local laws and regulations. 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 a 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 in time and administrative expenses. When agencies aggregate their spend through a cooperative contract, it can often deliver better pricing than they might otherwise receive through their own bid process, or from a smaller, regional cooperative contract.

The value of joint and cooperative purchasing has long been recognized as an acceptable and legal means of government procurement by both the American Bar Association and the National Institute of Government Procurement.

SB23 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,



Tammy Rimes, MPA
NCPP Executive Director

