



A Department of Education Service Center Region 8, 4845 US Highway 271 North, Pittsburg, Texas 75686, (866) 839-8477

Testimony of Charlie Martin
The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS)
Senate Bill 23 – Proponent
February 24, 2023
Re: TIPS Support for Senate Bill 23

Senator Lang and members of the Committee, my name is Charlie Martin, Chief Executive Officer of The Interlocal Purchasing System (“TIPS”). TIPS is a successful and growing national purchasing cooperative and a governmental entity itself. I respectfully write to offer TIPS’ support for Senate Bill 23 to reinstate the ability of Ohio political subdivisions to procure construction services through the method of cooperative procurement. TIPS may have started as a small, regional cooperative but because of our diligent attention to compliance and customer care from inception through the present, TIPS continues to far exceed its initial vision and serve government entities throughout the nation. TIPS appreciates the opportunity to present this testimony in support of Senate Bill 23.

Cooperative purchasing between public entities is a tremendously beneficial and continuously evolving method of public procurement. Cooperatives that are operated under the authority of a lead public agency, such as TIPS, understand that governmental entities such as public schools, municipalities, and agencies, throughout the United States are struggling with limited funding, with complying with extensive procurement laws, with maintaining staff and documentation, and with the necessity of constantly procuring all goods and services necessary to operate in a manner that best serves the public.

Cooperative purchasing between public entities has long been a necessary method for governmental entities to join forces to potentially expedite and increase the efficiency of public procurement. In these cooperative purchasing relationships, the purchasing cooperative typically serves vendors and public entities by carefully completing the extensive legal competitive procurement process. The purchasing cooperative performs this service on behalf of all public entities and connects those customers with highly qualified vendors. For construction purposes, this process often means more efficient and cost-effective methods for government entities to connect with highly-qualified, competitively-priced construction vendors, readily available to serve their needs. Senate Bill 23 effectively addresses concerning ambiguity in the current law by clarifying that construction contracts which were properly procured by another public agency can be utilized to assist Ohio political subdivisions with similar needs.

Public entities always have the option to exercise traditional methods of public procurement when most beneficial. However, TIPS finds that this legislation returns an important option to Ohio political subdivisions to legally procure construction services in a way that aggregates their purchasing powers and satisfies their entities’ immediate needs.

Thank you for allowing and considering my testimony in favor of this legislation and I respectfully request your support for Senate Bill 23.

Respectfully,