

Gordian
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Greenville, SC 29615

February 28, 2023

Chairwoman Kristina Roegner
Senate Government Oversight & Reform
Senate Building
1 Capitol Square, 1st Floor, 142
Columbus, OH 43215

RE: Support for Senate Bill 23

Dear Chairwoman Roegner & Members of the Committee,

On behalf of *Gordian*, the nation's leading provider of construction and facilities data, software, and expertise, I write to express our continued support for Senate Bill 23, sponsored by Senator Lang, to clarify Ohio political subdivisions' authority to utilize cooperative purchasing for construction services.

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. Prior to its issuance, local governments, school districts, and other public entities throughout Ohio routinely accessed cooperatively procured construction services. Senate Bill 23 remedies the issue identified by the Attorney General in the statute to clarify political subdivisions possess explicit authority to utilize cooperatively procured construction services to save finite taxpayer funds, reduce administrative burden, and expedite project delivery.

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 in Ohio and across the nation have used for decades. Cooperative contracts are publicly advertised and competitively bid and awarded to ensure that the products and services offered are provided by reliable vendors, competitively priced, and of high quality.

Harnessing the efficiencies of cooperatively procured construction is not an experimental endeavor. Ohio can not only rely on the evidence and the facts of its own recent history with this practice but also on the extensive successful track record of cooperatively procured construction utilized across the country for decades to confidently know that ensuring political subdivisions access to it is in the best interests of local governments, taxpayers, and the contracting community.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to express *Gordian's* strong support of Senate Bill 23.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Keller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "T" and a long, sweeping underline.

Tim Keller
Manager, Government & Regulatory Affairs
Gordian