

Jeremy Schwartz
Chair
Sourcewell

February 8, 2023

Andrea Scobie
Vice Chair
OMNIA Partners

The North Dakota Senate
Senate State and Local Government Committee

John Orlando
Treasurer
E&I Cooperative
Services

To: Members of the Senate State and Local Government Committee

Ronnie Barnes
HGAC-Buy

Subject: **Support of SB 2370** to Amend the North Dakota Century Code

Dr. Chad Coauette
Sourcewell

As North America's professional association for cooperative procurement, the National Cooperative Procurement Partners (NCPP) **supports** SB 2370.

Eric Frank
E&I Cooperative
Services

Doug Looney
OMNIA Partners

Cooperative or joint purchasing has long been used by municipalities across the nation as an established method of procurement. This proposed legislation will amend the North Dakota Century Code, subsection 4 of 11.11.14 to empower the board of county commissioners to contract for cooperative purchases consistent with the joint-powers agreement under chapter 54-40.3, and ultimately allow cities and counties to use this contracting tool.

The benefits of cooperative procurement are well documented, including:

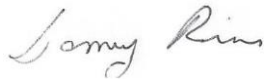
- The solicitation—starting from the advertisement and initial bid through the contract award process is an open, transparent, and public government procurement process solicited by units of government for units of government. This contracting tool helps resource-strapped procurement teams and shortens 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 any delivered services must comply with local laws and regulations.
- Cooperative contracts lend themselves to best value propositions. Pricing is very important, along with service options, warranties, and references. Multiple entities using one contract results in advantageous pricing.

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. Many suppliers

within the state, have cooperative contracts that could be offered to North Dakota local governments to drive efficiencies and savings.

SB2370 seeks to clarify the ability for political subdivisions to make cooperative purchases which will ultimately benefit North Dakota taxpayers.

Thank you for your consideration,

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

Tammy Rimes, MPA
NCPP Executive Director