

TESTIMONY OF

**Sherry Neas, Director, Shared Services Division**

Chairman Roers and members of the committee. My name is Sherry Neas, Director of the Shared Services Division in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). I appear today in support of engrossed HB 1198.

This bill adds a new section to the Parks and Park Districts law regarding cooperative purchasing. The bill creates new authority for park districts to participate in other types of cooperative purchasing agreements.

This bill was amended by the House and we appreciated the opportunity to work with Representative Warrey, the bill sponsor, and the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Association on an amendment. The amendment was required because current state procurement law in chapter 54-44.4 enables park districts to use cooperative purchasing contracts established by the OMB without a joint powers agreement.

OMB supports cooperative purchasing and has many contracts park districts can use. OMB is not staffed to execute all the needed cooperative purchasing agreements for all levels of state government and political subdivisions.

The engrossed bill makes it clear that there are multiple sources of authority for park districts to join cooperative purchasing contracts.

Chairman Roers and committee members, this concludes my testimony. I ask your support for engrossed HB 1198. I would be happy to answer any questions.