

TESTIMONY OF

Sherry Neas, Director, Shared Services Division

Chairman Longmuir 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 HB 1198.

This bill adds a new section to the Parks and Park Districts law regarding cooperative purchasing. We appreciate the opportunity to work with Representative Warrey, the bill sponsor, and the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Association on an amendment.

State procurement law in chapter 54-44.4 currently enables park districts to use cooperative purchasing contracts established by the OMB. The amendment makes it clear that a park district does not need a joint powers agreement to participate in the OMB cooperative purchasing contracts.

The bill creates new authority for park districts to participate in other types of cooperative purchasing agreements through a joint powers agreement.

OMB supports cooperative purchasing, but we are not staffed to execute all the needed cooperative purchasing agreements for all levels of state government and political subdivisions. The amended bill makes it clear that there are multiple sources of authority for park districts to join cooperative purchasing contracts.

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