

Testimony Prepared for the
House Government & Veterans Affairs Committee
March 9, 2023
By Genny Dienstmann ND Association of Counties



RE: Support for SB 2370 – Cooperative purchasing for counties/cities

Chairman Schauer and House Government and Veterans Affairs Committee members, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2370 on behalf of counties. I am Genny Dienstmann with the ND Association of Counties and I also serve as Executive Director for the ND Association of County Engineers and Highway Superintendents.

Counties have used cooperative purchasing and joint powers agreements for years in buying goods and services. There are many advantages of using cooperative purchasing, particularly when counties are looking for large equipment.

For example, counties are required to bid on large equipment over \$100,000 like trucks, blades and loaders. They have other equipment in their inventory, such as attachments, that must work with the new equipment being purchased, so bid specs may vary depending on what each county uses. Since 53 counties aren't looking for the same equipment at the same time, the buying power and discounts aren't as high due to lower volume when bidding on their own.

The cooperative purchasing programs offer a competitive bid process, which is advertised nationwide in many cases and offers the contracts to agencies at no cost to use. This creates efficiencies for counties in the public procurement process while still being able to spend local tax dollars with local equipment dealers.

This bill doesn't require counties to use this process for all its purchases, it simply provides another option for counties when making purchasing decisions, which we would greatly appreciate.

Chair Schauer and committee members, we support this bill and request a DO PASS recommendation on SB 2370.