

Testimony Prepared for the
Senate State and Local Government Committee
February 9, 2023
By: Dan Schriock, Burleigh County Asst. Engineer



**RE: Support for SB 2370 – Relating to counties/cities to engage
in cooperative purchasing**

Chair Roers and State and Local Government Committee members, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2370. I am Dan Schriock, Burleigh County Assistant Engineer, and I also serve on the legislative committee for the ND Association of County Engineers. I am here to support the bill as proposed.

Counties have used cooperative purchasing and joint powers agreements for years in buying goods and services at a more reasonable rate than purchasing these same items on their own. There are many advantages of doing cooperative purchasing when counties are looking for similar items, but it becomes more difficult when specs vary in which buying power may become limited.

For example, in our industry, we bid on large equipment like trucks, blades and loaders. We have other equipment in our 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, the buying power and discounts will not be as high due to lower volume. This bill allows additional flexibility for counties to have more options and efficiencies when making purchases; because these agreements provide a national volume discount and we are still able to spend our local tax dollars with our local dealers.

This bill isn't requiring counties to use this mechanism for all its purchases, it is simply providing another option for counties to utilize when making purchasing decisions.

Chair Roers and Committee members, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill and I ask for your support on SB 2370.