

January 31, 2023

The Honorable Paul Holvey
900 Court St. NE
Salem H-277, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for House Bill 2055

Representative Holvey,

Sourcewell supports House Bill 2055 which will update and streamline the process and procedures for conducting cooperative procurements for public contracts and public improvement contracts.

Current cooperative procurement language in Oregon is some of the most restrictive in the nation. Currently, Oregon law allows public agencies to utilize a cooperative procurement for a public improvement only if it is a joint procurement, meaning the agency was named in the solicitation process. Cooperative procurements, by their very nature, are open ended and indefinite to allow as many agencies as possible to utilize them. The new cooperative procurement language would expressly allow public agencies in Oregon the ability to utilize a cooperative procurement for goods, services, and public improvements. This new law would make it infinitely easier for public agencies to participate in any cooperative procurement by removing the current distinct types of cooperative procurements in Oregon. Clarifying the cooperative procurement language will provide Oregon public procurement officials more opportunities and the ability to make the best choice decisions to achieve state procurement goals, save time and money, and ensure that Oregon is properly leveraging its buying power at all levels of government procurement.

Sourcewell is a Minnesota-based local unit of government and cooperative procurement organization serving public agencies in Oregon and across the country. Cooperative procurement contracts provide significant administrative and time efficiencies, access to industry leading goods and services, and cost savings to help ensure good stewardship of tax dollars. Cooperative procurement combines multiple governments buying requirements into a single contract to harness volume discounts and purchasing power. By using cooperative contracts, procurement teams can further negotiate lower prices and reduce procurement time. The procurement industry also recognizes the role cooperative procurement plays in government procurement in that it provides them an opportunity to serve governments and satisfy their rules and regulations. The value of cooperative purchasing has long been recognized as an acceptable and legal means of government procurement by both the American Bar Association as well as the National Institute of Government Procurement.

Sourcewell urges the passage of House Bill 2055 to update and streamline the process and procedures of cooperative procurement to allow procurement professionals in Oregon the ability to continue to be strategic while conducting government procurements and to ensure that Oregon has all the methods of procurement available to ensure they are leveraging the state's maximum buying power.

Sincerely,

Laurence Caldwell
Government Relations Associate
Laurence.caldwell@sourcewell-mn.gov