



## **HB 2055 Testimony in support on behalf of AOC- Association of Oregon Counties**

House Committee on Business and Labor

February 1, 2023

Dear Chair Holvey, Vice Chair Elmer, Vice Chair Sosa and members of the House Committee on Business and Labor:

My name is Anna Braun from Dalton Advocacy on testifying on behalf of the Association of Oregon Counties. **(AOC) strongly supports HB 2055.**

HB 2055 updates and streamlines the process and procedures for conducting cooperative procurements for public records contracts and public improvement contracts.

By aligning Oregon's cooperative procurement statute with current public procurement practice, HB 2055 will provide consistency in interpretation and reduce the risk of non-compliance. Smaller and/or rural counties will benefit from greater access to cooperative contracts, especially those agencies where they do not have the resources to support dedicated procurement departments. HB 2055 will also give counties greater access to competitively priced contracts with favorable terms and conditions.

Cooperative procurements are favorable because they leverage the buying power of thousands of government, education, and nonprofit organizations resulting in competitively solicited cooperative contracts ready for public contracting agencies to use.

Since its inception in 2003, Oregon's Cooperative Procurement statute has not changed. Over the past 20 years, the quantity and variety of cooperative procurement contracts have increased yet public contracting agencies are being increasingly impacted by market volatility and supply chain pressures. Government purchasing offices consider the use of cooperative procurement contracts as a best practice, saving entities time and money while obtaining higher quality products and services. The statute, as written, often causes confusion for procurement officials when making the determination as to whether the agency can utilize a cooperative contract. This often results in inconsistent interpretation of the rules and issues of non-compliance.

AOC worked with the Oregon Public Purchasing Association (OPPA), Multnomah County, and Chair Holvey's office to draft HB 2055.

Thank you.

**UNITED COUNTIES. UNITED OREGON.**

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