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Haley Percell**

TO: House Committee on Revenue
FROM: Stacy Michaelson, Director of Government Relations and Communications
DATE: March 27, 2025
RE: HB 2515

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of HB 2015. OSBA represents all 197 school districts, 19 education service districts and community colleges. We believe that HB 2515 would provide our members with an important financial tool.

Statewide, many public agencies are facing tightening budgets. As a number of school districts are preparing for potential reductions in staffing, it becomes even more challenging to plan for long-term investment and district needs, when the immediate crisis is so pressing. We also have a number of school districts that have struggled to pass bonds, and in many instances have needed to reduce their bond measures in order to secure approval from voters, resulting in aging buildings in all parts of the state.

HB 2515 would give public bodies the *option* to pool investments with other agencies through an intergovernmental agreement. Having this tool in the toolbox would support local education agencies in maximizing their limited budgets to help stretch their limited public dollars as far as they can possibly go.

Our schools need every tool they can get. HB 2515 gives districts an option, not a requirement, and we believe this tool will provide a significant boost in many communities. We urge your passage of HB 2515.

Thank you.