

Chair John, Vice Chair Dean, Ranking Member Brennan and members of the House State and Local Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony for HB 145. My name is Rick Perales and I proudly serve as one of the Greene County Commissioners. As the sponsors mentioned in their testimony, removing or reducing these barriers, in whatever forms they take, helps move our society toward one of mutual benefit, where people succeed by helping others improve their lives and by transforming their communities.

One of the arguments is joint procurement contracts reduces competition or disallows local contractors from participating in contracting opportunities. Much of the work performed under a cooperative contract is completed by local contractors who live and work within the community. I believe that this bill will be especially helpful to address situations in which other local governments, such as townships and villages, may wish to partner with the county on construction contracts, effectively saving taxpayer dollars. Cooperative purchasing has proven to be an open, transparent, competitive public procurement process by both the American Bar Association and the National Institute of Government Procurement.

It would be a missed opportunity for Ohio taxpayers to allow confusion and uncertainty over procurement procedures to delay such critical infrastructure upgrades making Ohio's schools more efficient, resilient, and healthier or forego the opportunity altogether for being untimely. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today in support of HB 145. I would gladly answer any questions you may have.