



State of Alabama  
Department of  
**Examiners of Public Accounts**

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*Chief Examiner*

May 28, 2006

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Mr. O.H. Sharpless  
Executive Director  
Association of County Commissions of Alabama  
100 North Jackson Street  
Montgomery, Al 36104

Dear Buddy:

Act Number 2006-279, amended the **Code of Alabama 1975**, Section 41-16-51, to provide that competitive bids shall not be required for "purchases of goods made as part of the purchasing cooperative sponsored by the National Association of Counties, or its successor organization." Such purchases may only be made if the Examiners of Public Accounts approves the competitive bid process.

The U.S. Communities Purchasing & Finance Agency (U.S. Communities) is the cooperative sponsored by the National Association of Counties. We have reviewed the competitive bidding process used by U.S. Communities for certain contracts and noted no matters that we felt were contrary to proper purchasing procedures or routine County bidding practices. Also, these contracts were awarded by various counties throughout the United States based on competitive bids that complied with the requirements of laws of their respective states.

Based on our review, we approve the competitive bidding process used by U.S. Communities, the purchasing cooperative sponsored by the National Association of Counties.

Sincerely,

Ronald L. Jones  
CHIEF EXAMINER