



CITY OF

PORTLAND, OREGON

Sam Adams, Mayor
Randy Leonard, Commissioner

March 15, 2011

Senator Lee Beyer
Senate Judiciary Committee
900 Court Street NE Room 333
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee,

We want to express our strong support and appreciation for Senator Rod Monroe's legislation, SB 217, that would allow use of urban renewal funds in Portland to help construct aspects of a much-needed school in the David Douglas School District.

Current statute does not allow urban renewal funds to be spent anywhere but inside a pre-defined urban renewal area. Allowing one of the city's successful neighborhoods to help pay for the construction of a school in an economically depressed area of that same city would be a useful tool in our economic development strategies.

Further, having the ability to use funds from an urban renewal area to construct a new school will allow for the creation of a more vibrant and complete community. The entire city will benefit from the investment of urban renewal funds in David Douglas through the improved achievement of the students who will use these facilities.

We would very much appreciate your favorable consideration of Senator Monroe's thoughtful legislation.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Mayor Sam Adams

Commissioner Randy Leonard