

**SB 217**  
**Testimony of Genoa Ingram**  
**Clackamas County Fire District 1**  
**Before the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee**  
**April 13, 2011**

Chair Burdick and Committee members, my name is Genoa Ingram, testifying on behalf of Clackamas Fire District 1. Clackamas Fire District 1 supports efforts to provide funding to build schools, including funding for the David Douglas School District. While we deeply respect Senator Monroe and Representative Schauffler's efforts to achieve funding for the David Douglas School District, we oppose this bill because we believe that it's poor public policy and there are other methods to fund school buildings.

Clackamas Fire District 1 participated heavily in the crafting of HB 3056 in the 2009 legislative session, a bill which represented a major overhaul of the urban renewal statutes.

At that time, the District, along with other stakeholders, signed a Memorandum of Understanding pledging to oppose any urban renewal legislation proposed during the duration of the document. An exception was made for the City of Portland, which the Memorandum acknowledges cannot oppose urban renewal bills related to the David Douglas School District.

Additionally, the Fire District, along with the other proponents, agreed that if any of the parties found it necessary to bring forth additional legislation, the legislation would first be presented to the Oversight Group as defined in the Memorandum of Understanding.

Absent SB 217, however, there are mechanisms available in the current statute that would allow funding for the David Douglas School District. The area could be declared blighted, as defined in ORS 457.010, which would include the condition of having inadequate or improper facilities, thus allowing the city to establish an urban renewal district and allowing tax increment financing (TIF) funds to be expended. The City of Portland could simply close (or reduce in size) current urban renewal districts within the city and then gift some or all of the incremental tax revenues to the School District. A gift of funds by the city to a school district has been done in the past.

Again, the Fire District supports funding for David Douglas School District but has concerns regarding the policy of establishing satellite urban renewal districts. Please give HB 3056 and the Memorandum of Understanding a chance to work as envisioned by the 2009 workgroup that brought the bill forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. Clackamas Fire District 1 appreciates your consideration.