

February 14, 2013

To: Co-Chairs Ways and Means Committee
Senator Chris Edwards
Representative Ben Unger

Re: Letter of Support for ODOE

I am pleased to be writing this letter of support in my capacity as the Superintendent of Corbett School District for ODOE with regard to both the Cool Schools Program as well as their continued facilitation of SB 1149 funds as they relate to School Districts.

Corbett School District is currently enjoying the results of executing a Cool Schools Project that has transformed our campus. With the help of ODOE Corbett School District used SB 1149 dollars and low interest loans to upgrade our energy infrastructure. These upgrades have created, for the first time in decades, classroom spaces that get above 55 degrees during the winter, have adequate ventilation while simultaneously saving the district money!

I want to stress the importance of that last phrase. Not only has ODOE helped us improve the learning environment by shepherding us through the cool schools process but they have also saved the district money. We expect to save \$25,000 or more a year in energy bills on top of paying back the low interest loans we took out to help fund the project.

I am confident that without the assistance of ODOE this project would not have happened and Corbett School District students will still be learning in frigid classrooms, with stale air while the district spent tax-payer dollars on old out of date energy systems.

I know the budget of ODOE is under consideration, I know money is tight state-wide, please consider carefully any cuts to ODOE. In my experience the money spent at ODOE actually saves tax-payer dollars in the long run.

Yours in education,

Randy Trani Ed. D.
Superintendent
Corbett School District