

From The Desk of
Senator Chuck Thomsen

SB 822



**FROM THE DESK OF
REP. MARK JOHNSON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
HOUSE DISTRICT 52**

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

**TO: All Members, Oregon House of Representatives
RE: Local Government Resolutions**

Colleagues,

Please take a moment to look at these resolutions that have been passed by multiple local government entities throughout the state urging the passage of comprehensive PERS reform like that in Senate Bill 754.

These resolutions were passed by the elected representatives of:

- Bend-LaPine Administrative School District #1
- Canby School District
- Deschutes County Board of Commissioners
- Grant School District #3
- Jefferson County Board of Commissioners
- Newberg School District
- Pleasant Hill School District #1
- Prairie City School District #4

I urge you to consider the critical input of these entities when deciding on the matters that affect them the most. Let me know if you need any more information on this important issue.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark".

SB 822

Prairie City School District #4

RESOLUTION NO. 1773

Support of Senate Bill 754 (2013)

WHEREAS, PRAIRIE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #4 is a public employer with the State of Oregon, and as such is a covered employer for the purposes of participating in the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS); and

WHEREAS, without action by the 77th Session of the Oregon Legislative Assembly to enact meaningful and sustainable modifications to PERS, the cost increases for PERS to PRAIRIE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #4 for the 2013-14 school year will be \$56,296.31; and

WHEREAS, PRAIRIE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #4 will need to make further budgetary reductions such as increasing class sizes, eliminating programs, delaying textbook and instructional technology purchases, reducing staff, or eliminating instructional days to cover the costs of the proposed PERS rate increases; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon School Boards Association has drafted Senate Bill 754 which would modify PERS to reduce costs to all PERS-covered public employers, yet still provide public employees and retirees with an adequate and stable retirement benefit; and


WHEREAS, outside expert legal counsel has issued an opinion that states that all provisions of Senate Bill 754 are legal and within the Legislature's power to adopt and would neither breach nor impair the PERS contract; and

WHEREAS, PERS' own actuary, Milliman, has completed an actuarial analysis of Senate Bill 754 and indicates that, as proposed, Senate Bill 754 would reduce employers' costs across the entire PERS system for the 2013-2015 biennium in excess of \$1 billion, allowing our district to hire teachers and put those dollars back into our schools.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the PRAIRIE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #4 Board of Directors strongly encourages the members of the 77th Session of the Oregon Legislative Assembly to enact the provisions of Senate Bill 754.

Adopted this 17TH day of April, 2013.

Signed:



Board Chair



Superintendent

SB 822

Pleasant Hill School District No. 1

RESOLUTION NO. 1213-50

Support of Senate Bill 754 (2013)

WHEREAS, Pleasant Hill School District is a public employer with the State of Oregon, and as such is a covered employer for the purposes of participating in the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS); and

WHEREAS, without action by the 77th Session of the Oregon Legislative Assembly to enact meaningful and sustainable modifications to PERS, the cost increases for PERS to Pleasant Hill School District for the 2013-14 school year will be \$240,000; and

WHEREAS, Pleasant Hill School District will need to make further budgetary reductions such as increasing class sizes, eliminating programs, delaying textbook and instructional technology purchases, reducing staff, or eliminating instructional days to cover the costs of the proposed PERS rate increases; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon School Boards Association has drafted Senate Bill 754 which would modify PERS to reduce costs to all PERS-covered public employers, yet still provide public employees and retirees with an adequate and stable retirement benefit; and

WHEREAS, outside expert legal counsel has issued an opinion that states that all provisions of Senate Bill 754 are legal and within the Legislature's power to adopt and would neither breach nor impair the PERS contract; and

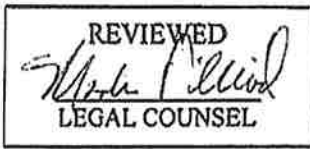
WHEREAS, PERS' own actuary, Milliman, has completed an actuarial analysis of Senate Bill 754 and indicates that, as proposed, Senate Bill 754 would reduce employers' costs across the entire PERS system for the 2013-2015 biennium in excess of \$1 billion, allowing our district to hire teachers and put those dollars back into our schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pleasant Hill School District Board of Directors strongly encourages the members of the 77th Session of the Oregon Legislative Assembly to enact the provisions of Senate Bill 754.

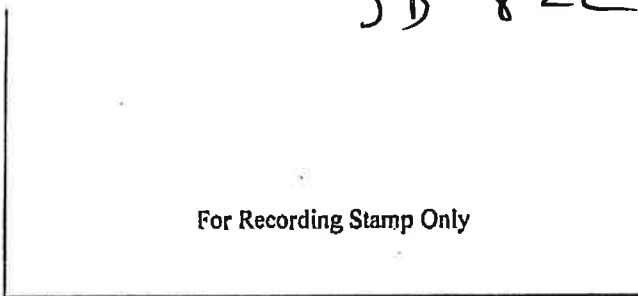
Adopted this 8 day of April, 2013.

Signed: 
Board Chair


Superintendent



SB 822



BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON

A Resolution expressing support for Senate Bill 754, modifying provisions related to public employee retirement.

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RESOLUTION NO. 2013-029

WHEREAS, Deschutes County is a public employer within the State of Oregon, and, as such, is a covered employer for the purposes of participating in the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS); and

WHEREAS, Deschutes County will face a significant cost increase beginning July 1, 2013, related to PERS; and

WHEREAS, without action by the 77th Session of the Oregon Legislative Assembly to enact meaningful modifications to PERS, these cost increases will result in budgetary reductions to County programs and services; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 754 has been introduced for consideration before the 77th Session of the Oregon Legislative Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 754 will modify PERS to reduce costs to all PERS-covered public employers and will provide public employees and retirees with an adequate and stable retirement benefit; and now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners or Deschutes County, Oregon strongly encourages the members of the 77th Session of the Oregon Legislative Assembly to enact the provisions of Senate Bill 754.

Dated this 1st of April, 2013

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF DESCHUTES COUNTY, OREGON

Alan Unger

ALAN UNGER, Chair

Tammy Baney

TAMMY BANEY, Vice Chair

Anthony DeBona

ANTHONY DEBONE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Bonnie Baker

Recording Secretary



GRANT SCHOOL DISTRICT #3

401 N. Canyon City Blvd. • Canyon City, OR 97820
Phone: (541) 575-1280 • Fax: (541) 575-3614

Resolution No. 2013-13

Support of Senate Bill 754 (2013)

WHEREAS, Grant School District #3 (John Day) is a public employer with the State of Oregon, and as such is a covered employer for the purposes of participating in the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS); and

WHEREAS, without action by the 77th Session of the Oregon Legislative Assembly to enact meaningful and sustainable modifications to PERS, the cost increases for PERS to Grant School District #3 (John Day) for the 2013-14 school year will be \$215,466; and

WHEREAS, Grant School District #3 (John Day) will need to make further budgetary reductions such as increasing class sizes, eliminating programs, delaying textbook and instructional technology purchases, reducing staff, or eliminating instructional days to cover the costs of the proposed PERS rate increases; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon School Boards Association has drafted Senate Bill 754 which would modify PERS to reduce costs to all PERS-covered public employers, yet still provide public employees and retirees with an adequate and stable retirement benefit; and

WHEREAS, outside expert legal counsel has issued an opinion that states that all provisions of Senate Bill 754 are legal and within the Legislature's power to adopt and would neither breach nor impair the PERS contract; and

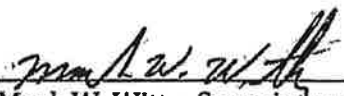
WHEREAS, PERS' own actuary, Milliman, has completed an actuarial analysis of Senate Bill 754 and indicates that, as proposed, Senate Bill 754 would reduce employers' costs across the entire PERS system for the 2013-2015 biennium in excess of \$1 billion, allowing our district to hire teachers and put those dollars back into our schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Grant School District #3 (John Day) Board of Directors strongly encourages the members of the 77th Session of the Oregon Legislative Assembly to enact the provisions of Senate Bill 754.

ADOPTED this 10th day of April, 2013.



Greg Jackle, Board Chair



Mark W. Witty, Superintendent

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Chairman Greg Jackle ■ Jim Cernazanu ■ Mike Cosgrove ■ Dr. Andrew Janssen ■ Gordon J. Larson ■ Les McLeod ■ Tracie Unterwegner

**Administrative School District No. 1
Bend-La Pine Schools**

RESOLUTION NO. 1773

Support of Senate Bill 754 (2013)

WHEREAS, Bend-La Pine Schools is a public employer with the State of Oregon, and as such is a covered employer for the purposes of participating in the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS); and

WHEREAS, without action by the 77th Session of the Oregon Legislative Assembly to enact meaningful and sustainable modifications to PERS, the cost increases for PERS to Bend-La Pine Schools for the 2013-14 school year will be \$4.5 million; and

WHEREAS, Bend-La Pine Schools will need to make further budgetary reductions such as increasing class sizes, eliminating programs, delaying textbook and instructional technology purchases, reducing staff, or eliminating instructional days to cover the costs of the proposed PERS rate increases; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon School Boards Association has drafted Senate Bill 754 which would modify PERS to reduce costs to all PERS-covered public employers, yet still provide public employees and retirees with an adequate and stable retirement benefit; and

WHEREAS, outside expert legal counsel has issued an opinion that states that all provisions of Senate Bill 754 are legal and within the Legislature's power to adopt and would neither breach nor impair the PERS contract; and

WHEREAS, PERS' own actuary, Milliman, has completed an actuarial analysis of Senate Bill 754 and indicates that, as proposed, Senate Bill 754 would reduce employers' costs across the entire PERS system for the 2013-2015 biennium in excess of \$1 billion, allowing our district to hire teachers and put those dollars back into our schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bend-La Pine Schools Board of Directors strongly encourages the members of the 77th Session of the Oregon Legislative Assembly to enact the provisions of Senate Bill 754.

Adopted this 9 day of April, 2013.

Signed:



Board Chair



Superintendent

Superintendent

SB 822

The Newberg School District

RESOLUTION NO. 1773

Support of Senate Bill 754 (2013)

WHEREAS, the Newberg School District is a public employer with the State of Oregon, and as such is a covered employer for the purposes of participating in the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS); and

WHEREAS, without action by the 77th Session of the Oregon Legislative Assembly to enact meaningful and sustainable modifications to PERS, the cost increases for PERS to the Newberg School District for the 2013-14 school year will be \$1.79 million; and

WHEREAS, the Newberg School District will need to make further budgetary reductions to cover the costs of the proposed PERS rate increases; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon School Boards Association has drafted Senate Bill 754 which would modify PERS to reduce costs to all PERS-covered public employers, yet still provide public employees and retirees with an adequate and stable retirement benefit; and

WHEREAS, outside expert legal counsel has issued an opinion that states that all provisions of Senate Bill 754 are legal and within the Legislature's power to adopt and would neither breach nor impair the PERS contract; and

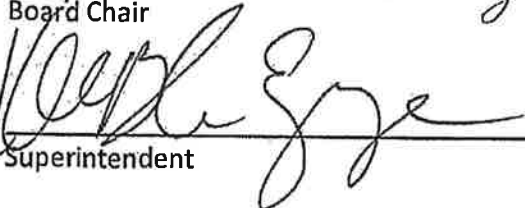
WHEREAS, PERS' own actuary, Milliman, has completed an actuarial analysis of Senate Bill 754 and indicates that, as proposed, Senate Bill 754 would reduce employers' costs across the entire PERS system for the 2013-2015 biennium in excess of \$1 billion, allowing our district to hire teachers and put those dollars back into our schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Newberg School District Board of Directors strongly encourages the members of the 77th Session of the Oregon Legislative Assembly to enact the provisions of Senate Bill 754.

Adopted this 9 day of April, 2013.

Signed:

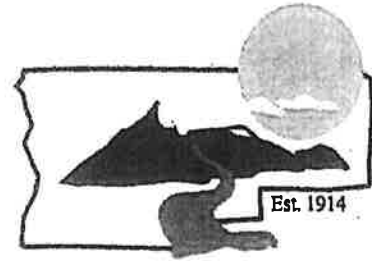

Board Chair


Superintendent

SB 822

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

66 S.E. "D" St., Suite A • Madras, Oregon 97741 • Ph: (541) 475-2449 • FAX: (541) 475-4454



March 27, 2013

Speaker Tina Kotek
900 Court St. NE, H269
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Speaker Kotek:

RE: Support SB 754 (PERS Reform)

The purpose of this letter is to urge your support of PERS reforms and in particular to support SB 754. We believe that PERS is in need of urgent reforms to be able to provide critical public health and safety services. These services are being compromised due to rising PERS costs.

Starting July 1, 2013 Jefferson County will have seen up to a 71% increase in our PERS rates since June 30, 2011. A very conservative estimate has the County spending an additional \$2,800 per employee per year solely due to rate increases in this same time frame. These rate increases will total over \$400,000 which take away from local resources highly focused on law and justice programs in Jefferson County. In this same time period (FY11 to FY14), Jefferson County's general fund property tax collections has decreased by \$31,354.

We believe the reforms in SB 754 are judicious, reasonable, and urgently needed.

Sincerely,


Wayne Fording, Chairman


Mike Ahern, Commissioner


John Hatfield, Commissioner

Mike Ahern, Commissioner

Wayne Fording, Chair

John Hatfield, Commissioner



SB 822

Board of County Commissioners

P.O. Box 6005 • Bend, OR 97708-6005
1300 NW Wall St, Suite 206 • Bend, OR 97701-1960
(541) 388-6570 • Fax (541) 385-3202

www.co.deschutes.or.us
board@co.deschutes.or.us

Tammy Baney
Anthony DeBone
Alan Unger

March 27, 2013

Representative Jason Conger
J900 Court Street NE, H-477
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Representative Conger:

The Deschutes County Board of Commissioners wishes to communicate its strong support for SB 754, which provides comprehensive reform of the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System (PERS).

Along with other public employers within the state of Oregon, Deschutes County is continually challenged by the rising cost of maintaining PERS in its current state. After years of rate increases, the County will soon be faced, once again, with the necessity of allocating more resources to PERS and fewer to the budgets which support critical programs and services that our citizens rely on every day for their health, safety, welfare, and quality of life. We believe that SB 754 represents a fair and methodical approach to balancing these needs with the obligation to provide a stable retirement benefit to our valued public employees.

While the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners welcomes any effort that will help curtail the unsustainable expense of PERS, the broad range of provisions within SB 754 and the projected budgetary savings will do more to solve the problem than other more limited, proposals. For this reason, we are joining the Oregon School Boards Association, the Oregon Business Association, Associated Oregon Industries, and other groups in calling on the 77th Session of the Oregon Legislative Assembly to enact SB 754.

Sincerely,

Deschutes County Board of Commissioners

Alan Unger, Chair

Tammy Baney, Vice Chair

Anthony DeBone, Commissioner

SB 822

**Resolution of the Canby School District Board of Directors
Support of
Senate Bill 754 (2013)**

WHEREAS, the Canby School District is a public employer within the State of Oregon, and as such is a covered employer for the purposes of participating in the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS); and

WHEREAS, the Canby School District will face a cost increase beginning July 1, 2013, related to PERS; and

WHEREAS, the Canby School District PERS rates will increase from 13.8% percent of payroll to 27% percent of payroll on July 1, 2013; and

WHEREAS, without action by the 77th Session of the Oregon Legislative Assembly to enact meaningful modifications to PERS, the cost increases to the Canby School District for the 2013 – 2014 school year will be \$ 2.5 million; and

WHEREAS, the Canby School District will need to make further budgetary reductions such as increasing class sizes, eliminating programs, reducing staff or eliminating instructional days to cover the costs of the proposed PERS rate increases; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon School Boards Association has drafted Senate Bill 754 and placed it for consideration before the 77th Session of the Oregon Legislative Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 754 will modify PERS to reduce costs to all PERS-covered public employers and will provide public employees and retirees with an adequate and stable retirement benefit; and

WHEREAS, outside expert legal counsel has issued an opinion that states that all the provisions of Senate Bill 754 are legal and within the Legislature's power to adopt and would neither breach nor impair the PERS contract; and


WHEREAS, PERS' own actuary, Milliman, has completed an actuarial analysis of Senate Bill 754 and indicates that, as proposed, Senate Bill 754 would reduce employers' costs across the entire PERS system for the 2013 – 2015 biennium in excess of \$1 billion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Canby School District Board of Directors strongly encourages the members of the 77th Session of the Oregon Legislative Assembly to enact the provisions of Senate Bill 754.

ADOPTED, this 4th day of April, 2013.



Tyler Kraft
School Board Chair



John Steach
Superintendent