Dear Co-Chairs Hass and Barnhart and Members of the Joint Committee on Tax Reform, Senator Frederick and Representative Sanchez,

I am writing to urge you to support HB 2830, which raises corporate taxes and provides $8.5 billion in funding for K-12 education over the next two years. There is no doubt that our public schools need more resources. Large class sizes, low graduation rates, crumbling infrastructure, and one of the shortest school years in the nation are some of the characteristics of Oregon's K-12 public education system. We can - and we must - do better.

Based on current budget projections, unless legislators vote to raise additional revenue, our schools will be implementing significant cuts over the next two years. At my child's school, Metropolitan Learning Center in Portland, these cuts are likely to include the loss of our compacted math & AVID teacher, our library assistant and other important members of our staff. Grant High School, where my older son will be starting, is also going to be facing difficult cuts that will directly affect students.

HB 2830 generates enough revenue to avoid these painful cuts over the next two years. However, HB 2830 does not raise revenue enough to fund our schools at the level we know is required to meet Oregon's educational goals, still leaving us unacceptably far from the funding levels that the Quality Education Model indicates are required to operate a system of highly-effective schools in Oregon.

While HB 2830 is a step in the right direction, it does not fully solve the problem of providing adequate resources for our public education system. Please pass HB 2830 and then continue the difficult but vital work required to ensure that we have the resources to fully fund K-12 education and other critical services.

Sincerely,

Amy Hunter
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