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Co-Chair Senator Hass, Co-Chair Representative Barnhart and
Members of the Joint Committee on Tax Reform

Testimony Regarding HB 2830

My name is Mary Walston, I live in Eugene, and I'm writing because I care deeply about K-12 public education in Oregon. I have served as a member of the Eugene 4J School District Board of Directors for eight years, and before that, ten years on the district's budget committee. I am all too familiar with the chronic underfunding of public education and the untenable budget reductions local school boards have had to make over past 15 years.

I'm very concerned that because corporations pay so little in taxes in Oregon, we have seen the slow degradation of public education in Oregon. We have one of the worst graduation rates and the second shortest school year in the United States. I hope you will make the children of Oregon, and as well, Oregon's future, a priority.

HB 2830 is a positive development and I support it, but we can't keep piecing together budgets like this. We need a revenue package that is significant and reverses decades of disinvestment in our schools and services. I'm urging you not just to raise new revenue, but to raise *game-changing* revenue that makes a significant difference. The children of Oregon are counting on you.

Thank you for your time.

/s/

Mary Walston

