



June 13, 2017

To: The Joint Tax Reform Committee

Re: HB 2830

My name is Julianna Seldon, I live in North Bend, and I'm here because I care deeply about finding a sustainable funding source for our public schools and investing in them to make a better future for Oregon. I'm very concerned that because corporations pay so little in taxes in Oregon, we are going to have to make cuts to public education. I hope you will put our children first. I currently serve on the North Bend school board, I work for a community college, and my 3 children attend public schools, primary through college. Through all these means I have firsthand knowledge of how important adequate funding is to our education system.

The bill you are considering is a positive development and I support it, but families like mine and the students I serve deserve far more and I hope the legislature will pass a tax increase that will be able to make a meaningful difference in our state.

We can't keep piecing together budgets and not making education a number one priority. 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.

I live in a small rural area. Our community is faced with a high poverty rate and a lack of adequate funding for our schools. In spite of this, our school district has worked incredibly hard to keep things like sports, music, and art in our schools. In addition, we have worked hard to maintain our facilities and keep schools and safe and positive place for our children to be. We continue to try and do more with less. However, without a funding structure that does more, we will not be able to keep up the strides we have made.

During my years as a school board member, and during the last 16 years my children have been attending school, having adequate school funding has been a constant struggle. I have been through the years where staff, faculty, and school days have been cut. I have been through the years where things were maintained, and I have been through years where small gains were made. This time, we have a chance to make a real difference. Let's put our children first, let's be on top of the school stats for the country instead of at the bottom. This will not only benefit our children for years to come but will make us better and stronger as a state.

We are counting on you. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Julianna Seldon

North Bend School Board Member