

June 13, 2017

Dear Legislators:

I have been a member of the South Wasco County School District Board of Directors for 15 of the past 20 years. During this time school funding has been a roller coaster, making maintenance of programs and personnel a constant struggle. I believe it is imperative that Oregon take steps to create a more stable funding source for public education. For that reason, I support the Kotek Proposal, which would make reasonable increases to corporate taxes, and help stabilize school funding in the process.

The Oregon legislature has only 5 weeks left to prove that they are willing to stand up and fight for our children. School board members like me are counting on you to prioritize Oregon's education system by passing a revenue package which will finally allow us to fund schools adequately, and begin to reverse decades of disinvestment. The \$8.2 billion school budget the Legislature is passing falls short of what school districts need to avoid cuts. Fortunately, it is not too late for legislators to raise that figure by asking corporations to pay a little more in taxes.

Students should not have to endure ballooning class sizes, more cuts to music, art, and PE programs, and fewer school days. In Wasco County, alone, we already face a shorter than average school year and have one of the lowest graduation rates in the state, with only 66% of students graduating, as a result of inadequate funding for our education system. A state's budget reflects our values. I think the legislature needs to reevaluate the message they are sending to our students every time they pass a cuts budget for our K-12 system.

The time for bold action on revenue is now. Oregon and our students can't wait any longer. We can either pass this revenue package, which values education, or continue to allow Oregon's public education system to disintegrate.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your ongoing efforts with respect to public education.

Sincerely,

Mike Foreaker  
South Wasco School Board Member