

From: Matthew Marr
To: [LRO](#)
Subject: HB 2830 Long-term diverse and stable funding for our schools needed
Date: Tuesday, June 13, 2017 3:52:35 PM

Dear Members of the Joint Tax Reform Committee,

As the former chair of the Ashland School Board I saw first hand the amazing positive impact that great teachers have on the future of our children. Unfortunately I also saw the detriment all impacts and disruption to education that cuts in funding can cause, as happened in 2009 and many other times.

As Speech and Debate coach at Ashland High School I have seen the amazing things that students can do when given the resources to succeed. Sadly, Speech programs are among the many great resources for students that districts around the state have felt forced to eliminate in the face of long-term decreasing and unstable revenue.

I appreciate the difficult work your committee is doing to search for new revenue streams for our state. The proposals in front of you today including HB 2830 are a good step forward. With the passage of Measure 5 one of the legs funding schools was pulled away. Personal income tax receipts are always going to rise and fall with the economy. However, our support for public education and other services must not waiver.

Please look hard at ways that our business sector can make a meaningful, consistent contribution to the state that has benefited them in so many ways. Look at reforming the 'Kicker' so that we can begin to build reserves in good times. We need a diverse set of revenues to support vital public services. Thus we can't afford more excuses, each revenue measure is a step forward and should be addressed on its own merits.

The work you are doing is difficult and might not always be popular. But stable funding for our schools will benefit the people of Oregon for generations to come,

Thank you

Mat Marr
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