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Oregon lawmakers taking responsible steps to fix education problems...

As a City of Union Councilor, I know that schools and services here in rural Oregon are in desperate need of investments. Finally, legislative leaders, Speaker Kotek and Senator Hass, have agreed on and introduced a compromise plan that would bring in much-needed revenue. The legislature must act swiftly to support their plan. With only 4 weeks left this legislative session, we cannot afford to wait to take action on revenue reform.

In Union County, we have class sizes that are 28% larger than the national average and a school year that is over a full week shorter than the average school year in Oregon. With the additional investments that would be brought in with the compromise plan proposed by Speaker Kotek and Senator Hass, school districts would be able to plan for a \$8.5 billion state school fund budget instead of the \$8.2 billion school budget that the Legislature is passing. We should all realize that another budget shortfall will likely result in significant impacts to the quality of education that our children deserve. This session, legislators must end our perpetual budget shortfalls and put Oregon families first by fully funding our schools.

For years, our students across the state of Oregon have been denied the opportunities and tools they need to succeed because corporations don't pay their fair share in taxes. The compromise plan is a responsible step toward addressing the current funding shortfall for Oregon's educational system and providing a long-term solution. Rural Oregon, especially, after decades of significant disinvestment, cannot wait a day longer on this legislature to act.

Senator Hansell and his colleagues must make raising revenue their top priority this legislative session. I'm counting on him to finally hold corporations accountable so Oregon can prove that it values education.

-Randy L. Knop