

Budget Advisory Committee for Aberdeen School District

216 North G Street
Aberdeen, Washington 98520
(360) 538-2002

December 5, 2018

Dear _____:

The Budget Advisory Committee was formed to deal with a looming budget crisis facing the Aberdeen School District that is a direct result of HB 2242. We are a diverse group made up of concerned parents, staff, business interests, collective bargaining groups and more. We request your immediate attention and action to mitigate harmful impacts that our community cannot reasonably avoid through local action. State-level changes to school funding have not fully funded education in our rural district. Instead, our district is struggling to remain solvent and will experience significant expenditure cuts and loss of service to our community's children and families. Below are the key areas contributing to the problem:

- The cap on local levies will reduce collection from \$4.31 to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, resulting in a 65% loss from this revenue source. The modest increase in state funding failed to replace the local contribution to basic education. We are not asking to go back to our local taxpayers again for basic education dollars. Rather, we seek your leadership to resolve the disparity between urban and rural funding formulas.
- The elimination of the state salary schedule and staff mix (that the revenue collection is based on) is adversely impacting our district. If all you do is restore the staff mix factor, that would be a huge first step toward fixing our state's funding inequities.
- The experience factor has a sharp cutoff between receiving or not receiving an additional 4% of revenue. Our district is just under the threshold, so despite having an experienced staff and the associated salary costs, it does not receive additional revenue to pay for it. There does not appear to be a re-evaluation date for this factor.
- The regionalization factor awards 6-24% more revenue to districts in more affluent areas. There is not a factor to address the funding challenges that are unique to our district and others like ours. For example, recruiting and retaining quality teachers is a significant challenge for us.
- The implementation of SEBB has detrimental financial implications for our district.

State-level revenue limitations are causing our district, under advisement from this committee, to reduce expenditures by 9% over the next two years. Achieving this will require staff reductions and program restructuring that would harm basic education in our district. We implore you to address this situation immediately and request dialogue. We meet again on January 9, 2019, and respectfully request your reply prior to this date.

Sincerely,

The Budget Advisory Committee for Aberdeen School District