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March 15, 2021

Chairman Schaible and members of the Senate Education Committee,

My name is Erik Sweet, and I am the Superintendent of TGU School District. Thank you for all of the work you do to support education within our great state, and for the opportunity to offer my testimony today. I am here to express my support for HB1388, while also explaining how this bill will impact my school district and several others like it.

Twenty years ago the communities of Towner, Granville, and Upham consolidated to form the TGU School District. Today, TGU operates two K-12 facilities for our students; one in Towner, the other in Granville. These two sites are located 23 miles apart. Under the funding formula of HB1388, our schools are projected to lose \$763,528.89 in annual state aid as the transition payment is phased out over the next 7 years. This is equivalent to approximately 40 mills worth of tax revenue for our stakeholders. I am concerned that this reduction in funding will put an incredible tax strain on our community. The future operation of our two schools will become increasingly difficult.

I would humbly offer a possible solution that would not only benefit TGU, but also two other districts in a similar situation. TGU School District currently has a student weighting factor of 1.09. An amendment to this bill could base our student weighting factor upon the size of the schools we operate. This would increase our state aid and help offset the loss of transition funding. It would also offer consolidated school districts like TGU similar funding to other facilities their size.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Erik Sweet
Superintendent
TGU School District