

Chairman Elkin and Education Committee Members.

My name is Leslie Bieber and I am the superintendent of Alexander Public School in Alexander, ND. I am here in support of HB 1125.

In 2015-16, APS added equal square footage to our school building due to enrollment increase. APS enrollment has increased by 546% in the last 15 years. We received the Bank of ND School Construction Loan for \$10,000,000 and sold bonds in the open market for \$7,000,000.

The credit enhancement program currently requires that a district's per pupil state aid equals two times the annual payment of our debt in order to receive the state credit rate.

Due to the 75% deduct of our in lieu of taxes, APS did not qualify for the credit enhancement program, which required that we had to buy insurance on our bonds for a total of \$41,000.

- 14-15 Per Pupil Aid: **\$747,644.24**
- 14-15 In Lieu of Tax Deduct: **\$745,526.32**
- 14-15 Total Income from Per Pupil Aid and In Lieu of Taxes: **\$1,728,652.11**
- Debt Repayment Annually for the Bonds (average): **\$456,373.00**
- Debt Repayment **X 2** to receive the state credit rate: **\$912,746.00**

If you read prior testimony from the House Education Committee, there is a difference in the calculations in my former written testimony. I had made an error but clarified my errors in front of the House Education Committee in person.

APS received sufficient funds, just not from per pupil aid due to the 75% deduct and it cost our constituents an additional \$41,000.

Other NW schools that did not qualify due to the in lieu of deduct was Ray Public School and McKenzie Public School District (Watford City).

HB1125 will correct the unintended negative outcome to school districts receiving in lieu of taxes. Therefore I ask that you give a do pass on HB 1125.

Thank you for allowing me to address this committee. I will stand for any questions at this time.

Sincerely,

Leslie Bieber

