

Good afternoon honorable Chairman and Senators.

My name is James Gilbert, I am the superintendent of the Mountain Home School District.

I am ^{testifying} today in opposition to the funding bill.

Along with several concerns I have regarding the mechanics of the bill I am also concerned with the process to this point.

Mr. Chairman and committee members it is my belief that ^{there is} ~~you have~~ a serious transparency issue with the Public School Funding Formula bill.

The process during the legislative session has been ~~borderline~~ ^{borderline} secretive ~~in my opinion.~~

Last minute meetings, private meetings, meetings with select ~~organizations or~~ groups, and ~~meetings with~~ select individuals are some of the concerns I have with how this process has worked.

As a superintendent ^{it} has become very tedious to track the numerous iterations of the bill on the House side and now in the Senate. Many of these versions have ~~obviously~~ ^{lacked} the opportunity for the public to even see a bill until the last minute. As someone who has followed this process and ^{has a fair understanding of the} ~~understands~~ the bill, I feel I have had to devote significant time each day to ^{staying up to date} ~~stay up to date~~ so I can advocate for my community. For most Idahoans, devoting the time to do this isn't possible and I can only imagine how frustrating this must be.

This ^{legislative} ~~entire~~ process needs to be transparent and ~~needs to have the all~~ ~~stakeholders voices heard~~. I urge you to delay this bill and to provide the opportunity for more transparency so all stakeholders are involved in creating a bill that is supported by those ^{who} it impacts ~~and those~~ who will implement it.

Thank you Mr. Chairman for the opportunity to testify today.