

From: radar250@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, March 02, 2017 9:57 AM
To: LeAnn Mohr
Cc: Senator Bob Nonini
Subject: Senate Bill 1103

The Honorable Dean M. Mortimer and Members of the Senate Education Committee

I am writing to you this morning as I was traveling yesterday for medical treatment to California. I was only made aware that this bill would be up for discussion today but it was too late to change any plans in order to be from Boise. However, let me say, many of us from North Idaho do not seem as they get proper notice where we can actually participate in the legislative process. We need more time as many of the special interest groups are located in Boise and they get to be heard and not the citizens of the State.

With that said, I have read SB1103 and for the most part I am in favor of it with the exception of allowing school district to keep school board zoning elections. We voter who vote for other local officials such as City and County representatives are not closed. The problem with leaving it with district voting is that if a Board member in another zone votes or fails to bring action which affects my taxes that is unfair and you are not giving me any recourse to fix the problem. Recently, our school board took no action on a proposal to all a subdivision to leave our district after they voted for construction levy and the value of the real property amounted to over \$45 million dollars. They even went against their own Superintendent.

I have talked and discussed with Senator Nonini and Senator Souza when election reform came about a few years ago calling on a move to bring school board elections in-line with all other elections. I have even called for Levy elections to be changed and moved to the May elections. However, Senator Mortimer, the Idaho School Board Association represents the Board members, are paid by our tax dollars, however, those seats they sit in belong to us, "the people" and we the people do not have a special interest group protecting our interest. We the people should have more control and say as to who, when and how they are seated than all these special interest groups.

Recently the Coeur d' Alene Press wrote an opinion piece supporting SB1103. The hit all the points well, however, I did not see anything from them suggesting they supported zoning vote. This bill will make elections more accountable to all, it will save election dollars and it will sure help with greater voter turn out. Current Board Members love the low turn out process as I know when I worked to get a Board Member elected. Even when teachers were calling her names and the district would allow her opponent to speak before the PTA, however, she was not allowed to. As to proof of voter turn out, you can look at the normal Lakeland School Levies and the one put before the voters last May. That levy passed, however, the vote was close and that is what our election process should be.

I know the process is better when you heard from us in public. While I don't want you to table this bill, I would encourage you to give us in North Idaho a better change to come to the Senate and be heard in the future.

If you have any questions or you need to talk to me, give me a call. Here is my cell 208-818-3207.

I believe I can speak for many in the Post Falls School District and tell you that voters are tired of special interest groups funded with taxpayer dollars saying they speak for us when they only represent the Board Members. It is time for a change and a long over due one. I urge you to support this bill and move it forward. If I can speak again, I would like to come there and speak in person.

Please make this e-mail part of the record.

Respectfully

Gary Nystrom
Taxpayer, Post Falls School District