

*Thank you Chairman Mortimer,
and Chairman Cole* Attachment 5

I AM ROD GRAMER, PRESIDENT AND CEO
OF IDAHO BUSINESS FOR EDUCATION

~~MR. CHAIRMAN~~, THANK YOU FOR THIS
OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY ON THE
PROPOSED SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA
LEGISLATION.

IBE HAS NOT TAKEN AN OFFICIAL POSITION
ON THE PROPOSED FUNDING FORMULA,
ALTHOUGH WE DO HAVE CONCERNS
ABOUT CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE PLAN AS
WE UNDERSTAND IT NOW.

ONE OF OUR BIGGEST CONCERNS IS THAT
THE KEY EDUCATION STAKEHOLDERS, WHO
ARE MOST AFFECTED BY THIS LEGISLATION,
DO NOT SUPPORT IT. YET THEIR SUPPORT
WILL BE CRUCIAL FOR ITS FINAL
IMPLEMENTATION.

WE COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND THAT THE INTERIM LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE WORKED VERY HARD OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS ~~AND ESPECIALLY THIS PAST YEAR WITH THE HELP OF THE EDUCATION COMMISSION OF THE STATES~~ TO CRAFT A NEW SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA.

AND WE CAN EMPATHIZE WITH ~~THE~~ ^{Legislators} ~~LEGISLATORS AND LEGISLATIVE LEADERS~~

~~THAT~~ ^{Who} HAVE PUT THEIR HEART AND SOUL INTO THIS WORK. IT IS EASY TO UNDERSTAND THAT THEY WANT TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE DURING THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

AND THAT MAY BE POSSIBLE IF WE CREATE A FRAMEWORK, ~~AS YOU HAVE SUGGESTED~~ ~~MR. CHAIRMAN~~, TO BRING ALL THE STAKEHOLDERS TOGETHER, ROLL UP OUR

SLEEVES AND WORK THROUGH THE MAJOR CONCERNS.

WE ALL REMEMBER WHEN THE TEACHER CAREER LADDER WAS INTRODUCED A FEW YEARS AGO. THERE WAS A LOT OF OPPOSITION TO THE FIRST DRAFTS OF THAT LEGISLATION.

YET BY EVERYONE WORKING TOGETHER, LISTENING TO EACH OTHER AND FINDING COMMON GROUND WE ULTIMATELY CAME UP WITH LEGISLATION THAT PASSED BOTH THE HOUSE AND SENATE ALMOST UNANIMOUSLY.

MANY OF US WERE HERE THEN AND WE CAN ALL PROBABLY REMEMBER THE GOOD WILL THAT FLOWED THROUGH THE HALLS OF THE STATEHOUSE THAT DAY.

THIS FUNDING FORMULA LEGISLATION IS MUCH MORE COMPLEX AND THE STAKES ARE EVEN HIGHER THAN THE CAREER LADDER. SO, ARE THE INITIAL CONCERNS OF THE STAKEHOLDERS.

Clow
~~MR.~~ CHAIRMAN, PERHAPS BY FOLLOWING YOUR SUGGESTION OF BRINGING THE STAKEHOLDERS INTO THE PROCESS WE CAN REACH A CONSENSUS ON A PATH FORWARD THIS SESSION.

BUT IF WE CAN'T, THERE IS PLENTY OF TIME TO DO THIS RIGHT.

EITHER THE GOVERNOR'S NEW EDUCATION TASK FORCE CAN DEVELOP A PLAN THAT ALL STAKEHOLDERS CAN BUY INTO. OR PERHAPS MEMBERS OF THESE GERMANE COMMITTEES, WORKING WITH THE

STAKEHOLDERS DURING THE INTERIM, CAN DEVELOP A PLAN.

BY STEPPING BACK, LISTENING DEEPLY AND INCLUDING ALL STAKEHOLDERS IN CRAFTING THE FINAL PLAN, ~~LET~~ WE CAN ACHIEVE THE SAME GOOD WILL AND PROGRESS THAT WE DID WHEN THE LEGISLATURE ADOPTED THE CAREER LADDER SEVERAL YEARS AGO.

THANK YOU. For the
opportunity to
commit TODAY
