

Elko County School District



Central Administrative Office

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Dear Legislative Committee,

For the record, my name is Todd Pehrson, Superintendent of Elko County School District. With the current year being my first year as a superintendent, the legislative session has provided a wealth of learning opportunities. While I am grateful for the discussions being held in Carson City to support the education of all students, I am concerned about the unintended impacts of the proposed new funding formula, and as such, would like to express my opposition and concerns regarding BDR 34-1263.

I understand the need to modernize the Nevada Plan on behalf of all students in the state of Nevada. Unfortunately, I am in a position in which I cannot support this bill due to the fact that I do not have any tangible numbers that show the true outcomes this bill could cause to our District. It is my understanding that for impacted districts, such as Elko, there is a hold harmless provision. Does this mean our budget will remain flat for years to come? Under such a scenario, estimates indicate that our funding could be flat for 7 to 10 years. This is a major concern with the trend of a growing population. The recent opening of the Long Canyon mine has already contributed to growing student numbers. If the "preliminary" numbers are even close to what we have been presented, ECSD will be forced to make major staffing and programming cuts, reducing overall opportunities for students, while increasing class sizes. Should any student in Nevada suffer due to the lack of funding?

There is also discussion of sweeping the Net Proceeds of Minerals, along with all local revenues. The removal of this critical funding source from the rural districts would create a double negative impact when combined with the formula. Many of the rural districts rely on these proceeds to update their aging schools and to comply with new building codes.

I appreciate the fact that education funding in Nevada is being discussed, however, until there is more funding Nevada will still be one of the lowest funded states in the nation.

I sincerely hope that there will be no winners and losers for our kids' sake and we can work together to create a formula in which all districts are able to move forward on behalf of the students we have the privilege to serve. I appreciate you giving me this time to express my concerns.