To: State Committee on Education and Workforce Development
From: Lisa Poehlitz
Date: April 2, 2013
Subj: Worksession for SB600

I have several concerns with SB 600. The main concern is the authorization of a **city** to petition a change to the boundary of a school district without the input and consent of the two school districts and the citizens of the communities involved. A city does not have the knowledge base in education and how school districts operate to make a sound decision in changing a boundary. In addition, the citizens of the affected districts must have a say in the process. School districts are not bound by postal zip code or city boundaries regardless of the name of the district. There are literally hundreds of examples just in the Portland Metro region!

My other concerns are with the specifics of the bill itself.
- Public Input:
    - There is **no provision for public input** in any phase and specifically none is allowed by the boundary board (Section 5)
    - The bill specifically states that **no remonstrance petition or election is allowed** thus eliminating any avenue for taxpayer citizens directly affected to have input.

- **Section 2** states that a city must find the (boundary)change would:
    - **A.** Decrease the total transportation costs of the affected school districts.
        1. Is this measured by the current situation?
        2. Or is it measured on what is projected?
        3. Who makes this projection, the very city which wants the change?
    - **B.** Result in greater efficiencies in the delivery of educational services?
        1. What specifically is a city to measure?
        2. Is this based on current or projected?
        3. Does this take into account the planning already completed by a district?

- **Section 3 part d**, the bill states that the petition contains a proposal for the **distribution of assets and liabilities** of the area.
    - **A.** This speaks to the financial impact to taxpayers of both districts without an opportunity for public input.
    - **B.** In addition, if an piece of property or a building owned by a school district was involved, somehow the receiving district would need to pay the taxpayers of the other district. Most districts do not have funds in reserve to pay for land or a building.

- **Section 6** addresses **employees of an affected school**. It states employees may elect to transfer to the new district without loss of seniority or accumulated sick leave. The new district must accept these employees. Employees are under labor union contracts in the district they are employed and I suspect this is not as simple as it sounds.

Lastly, this bill appears to have been written to specifically address a situation in the South Cooper Mountain area in which a group of developers believe land needs to be moved from the Hillsboro School District. The initial set of petitions by a developer land owner were overwhelmingly rejected by the

community at large. A more recent attempt to convince the Hillsboro School District(HSD) was also rejected.

Currently there are 241 acres in the South Cooper Mountain UGB that are part of HSD. Based on Metro's density ratio for the area, there will be approximately 941 students. In addition, 550 adjacent acres in UGB reserves are in HSD and will result in almost 2000 more students. Regardless of which district this land is in, a new school(s) will need to be built. HSD has stated that this area is in their facility planning.

As the situation currently stands, two students live in the affected area. HSD runs a bus down the road where the students reside. HSD will continue to run a bus there even if the land is put in a different district. The new district would have to run a bus down that road as well. There is no current savings in transportation.   Future savings would be subject to interpretation based on plans for either district to build new schools in the area.

The bill is not in the best interest of the local taxpayers and I ask that you do not support this bill.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

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