District 511 JT P.O. Box 68 Gaston, Oregon 97119

February 12, 2013

The Honorable Senator Chris Edwards Representative Ben Unger Co-Chairs of Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources 900 Court St. NE Salem, OR 97301

RE: Oregon Department of Energy – Cool Schools Program

Dear Sirs:

I am writing this letter to express support for Cool Schools and Oregon Department of Energy programs.

Gaston is a very small school district that is constantly looking for ways to support building improvements that incorporate green energy. Making every dollar count towards that goal becomes challenging. The expertise that is provided through Oregon Department of Energy and Cool Schools staff is imperative. Without it, Gaston would not be able to pursue green energy alternatives and use the SB1149 funds that have been set aside.

After the Jr./Sr. High School energy audit and prior to the Elementary building audit, Oregon Department of Energy personnel Daniel Weldon, Program Analyst; Rob Nicol, Cool Schools Program Analyst; and Andrzej Pekalaski, Energy Analyst; visited Gaston. Their combined expertise helped Gaston determine next steps towards facility energy efficient projects. In addition, Kathy Estes, a loan officer has been instrumental in assisting with our loan request.

We respectfully request that you continue to support programs like Cool Schools so that the small school districts and other entities can continue to solicit their expertise.

Sincerely,

Marie DuRott.

Marie DuRette Business Manager Gaston School District #511Jt EIN #93-6001041

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