



February 21, 2023

RE: Senate Bill 292-1

Dear Senate Committee on Education,

The Vale School District Board of Directors have significant concerns regarding the requirements under House Bill 4114 (2022) which require "Every member of the district school board of a common school district or union high school district" to file a statement of economic interest with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission.

Board members volunteer their time to serve their schools and communities, and we believe it is an invasion of our privacy to be subjected to this requirement. In small communities, it can be difficult to fill board vacancies; however, as the April 15th deadline approaches many of us are considering resigning from our roles in lieu of filing the statement of economic interest. This would be unfortunate, as it would cause a disruption in our strategic planning, oversight of District goals, and would ultimately impact the students we serve.

Fortunately, there have been attempts this session to resolve this concern for Boards in small communities. Senate Bill 292-1 would eliminate the requirement for board members to file a statement of economic interest if their average daily membership is less than 1,650 students. As a Board, we support the language in Senate Bill 292-1 and urge the legislature to enact these changes prior to the April 15th deadline to prevent any unfortunate resignations by board members.

Sincerely,

Vale School District Board of Directors

Vale Elementary School - Willowcreek Elementary School - Vale Middle School - Vale High School