

Submitter: Majalise Tolan

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3149

Chair Neron, Vice Chairs Dobson and McIntire, and Members of the House Education Committee:

I am writing to support the -2 amendments to House Bill 3149 to provide a one-year extension to wildfire-impacted school districts. This funding will allow the Lincoln County School District time to prepare and transition with the reduction.

Thank you for the financial support provided to wildfire-affected districts like ours, especially in filling the funding gap for the 24-25 school year. The resources allocated have helped us provide support for students and families and maintain programs in Lincoln City without taking resources from the other community schools in our geographically large district.

Since the fires, some in our community are still experiencing displacement and housing instability, and we still have declining student enrollment as a result of the fires. Without a one-year extension, our district stands to lose \$1,519,112 in funding, the equivalent of 12.6 teaching positions. The loss of funding would result in reductions in staffing, increased class sizes, and the possible elimination of essential programs that our students and families rely on. A one-year extension would allow us to plan for phasing out or eliminating positions or programs and make more thoughtful decisions to ensure continuity of education and support for our students.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for the -2 amendments to HB 3149 to provide one-year funding to our schools, students, and community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Majalise W. Tolan
Superintendent, Lincoln County School District