

ROD MONROE
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 24



MEASURE: SB 217-A
EXHIBIT: C
Senate Finance and Revenue 76th Session
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SUBMITTED BY: Senator Rod Monroe

OREGON STATE SENATE
900 COURT ST NE
SALEM, OR 97301

SB 217 Testimony of Sen. Rod Monroe
Wednesday April 13th

In 1990 the citizens of Oregon passed measure five. This has led to a reasonable equalization in school funding across the state. However this has not equalized capital needs as the property value per student varies significantly. It is much easier to pass a bond measure to pay for new facilities or improvements when the property values in the community are high. When the property values are low the burden of the increased property taxes on an individual home owner is much higher.

The David Douglass School District is the second poorest out of the 200 school districts in Oregon in terms of property value per student. David Douglass School District is entirely in the city of Portland but it does not share the wealth of inner Portland.

SB217 allows the City Council to divert a small amount of urban renewal dollars from inner Portland to build an elementary school and community center on land already owned by the David Douglass School District. We are asking for about 10 million dollars out of the hundreds of millions in the urban renewal funds.

Portland School district #1 has seen a consistent drop in students whereas the David Douglass School District is amongst the fastest growing in the state. The class sizes are large and the schools are bursting at the seams with students.

This bill is permissive in nature and does not require the City Council to do anything, it simply states that this diversion of funds would be legal if they see fit to do so.

