

May 8, 2017

Dear State Legislators:

As the Vice Chair of the Forest Grove School District Board of Directors, I am testifying in favor of HB 3430, a bill that would distribute unclaimed funds that have been in the Common School Fund for 25 years or more.

While the legislature seems to be making progress on a combination of tax reform and reduction in spending growth that would benefit schools, we know all too well that nothing is guaranteed. If we end up with funding at the Governor's proposed \$8 billion State School Fund, the Forest Grove School District would be faced with \$1.5 million or 2% in cuts to its annual budget. If the State School Fund ends at the Co-Chairs working number of \$7.8 billion, we would have to cut \$3.5 million or 5% of the budget. I probably do not need to spell out how damaging—and unacceptable—those cuts would be.

This would come at a time of 4% unemployment and record state revenues. News reports that booming state revenues might trigger the individual income tax kicker make the situation look increasingly dire for our schools.

While HB 3430 would not add a great deal of money to the Common School Fund, we who serve districts around the state are looking for any funds, no matter their size, to help us avoid some of the cuts that we face.

On behalf of the state's school children, I ask you to pass HB 3430.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Hayes', written in a cursive style.

John Hayes, Vice Chair
Forest Grove School District Board of Directors