

From the Offices Of: Senator Lynn Findley & Representative Mark Owens

Governor Kate Brown 900 Court St. NE, Room 254 Salem, OR 97301

May 27, 2020

RE: School reopen plans

Honorable Governor Brown,

Oregon is too diverse for a one-size-fits-all approach to reopening. We respectfully request that Eastern Oregon School Districts be given a voice and allowed to join the conversation. We ask that representatives from Eastern Oregon School Districts be appointed to your education advisory committee for the reopen plans. We expect that none of our students or School Districts will be left behind, and that all of our schools will be able to open this fall.

Upon hearing that the Oregon Department of Education is leaning towards a statewide reopening plan for schools, rather than a regional or county approach, we contacted the School Districts in House District 60 for their opinions about the process. It was then that we discovered that none of the Superintendents in HD60 had been consulted or included in the discussions. Furthermore, a survey from the ODE was sent out to gather information and input, but not one of our School District's had received the survey.

Enclosed you will find letters from 24 individual School Districts and their School Boards in House District 60. These letters express their concerns with the process, their frustration with rural Eastern Oregon School Districts being intentionally left out of the conversation by ODE, and their desire to have a seat at the table during the drafting of this reopen plan.

Sincerely,

Senator Lynn Findley Senate District 30 Representative Mark Owens House District 60



Nyssa School District #26



Grant School District #3



Harney County School District #3



Grant County ESD



Prairie City School District #4



Malheur County ESD



Silvies River Charter School



Adrian School District #61



Annex School District #29



Monument School District #8



Ontario School District 8C



Vale School District #84



Baker School District 5J



Juntura School District



Dayville School District 16J



Crane School District IJ



Pine Eagle School District



Burnt River School District 30J



Harney County School District #4



Frenchglen School District #16



Diamond School—Harney Co School District #7



Four Rivers Community School



Harney ESD



Pine Creek School—Harney Co School District #5