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March 11, 2025

Re: LD 225 Testimony

Dear Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier and members of the Taxation Committee,

As the Superintendent of RSU 10 I can say our district is most appreciative of qualifying for a new school project back in 2017. It has been a tremendously long road to get to this point and unfortunately one of our three school buildings that will be replaced has not made it. We are scheduled to be in our new building by December, 2025. During the summer of 2024 we worked hard to, yet again, mitigate mold and air quality issues. This time we were told it was too far gone and would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to possibly get it to a point people could return. We had to get our students and staff out of the building. That was in October, 2024. We have had to relocate 370 students across three buildings after retrofitting space that is less than ideal. Students and staff had to go to remote learning while this was completed over two to three months.

I explain this to you because we are one of the fortunate districts! When this happened we could look out our back window and see the long-term solution. A new PreK-8 school to replace our three inefficient and unhealthy buildings. Most districts cannot see that solution. We scored number three on the list of 78 school applications ranked in 2017. It will have taken eight and a half years from our application to our move into the new building. Most of those applicants didn't get funding for their schools.

Funding for school construction needs to be a priority. These projects take so long and with construction costs ever increasing the time is now for our aging infrastructure. Our students are worth it!

Thank you for considering this important issue.

Deborah Alden  
Superintendent of Schools  
RSU 10