

River Bend CUSD #2

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Honorable Michael Jacobs
Senate D-36
606 19th Street
Moline, IL 61265

Dear Honorable Senator Jacobs:

The purpose of this letter is to discuss the financial impact of the state's fiscal crisis on River Bend CUSD #2 and to ask your support to include new revenue as a part of the education funding solution. I am deeply concerned with the overall effect of the current budget FY10 as well as the dire projections for FY11. For FY11, the state's budget shortfall is estimated to be around \$12 billion and I am gravely concerned as to the devastating impact this will have on our local school district, not only this year, but next year.

This huge deficit, coupled with the approximately \$1 billion loss of stimulus funding that school districts received during the FY09 and FY10 for General State Aid, is of great concern to me. In FY 2011, the state will have to come up with an additional \$1 billion just to maintain flat education funding levels. How will this be accomplished?

Major funding concerns are as follows:

- \$462,212 of late payments the state owes us for FY10 – including special education, transportation and early childhood programs;
- A reduction of over \$884, 772 loss in General State Aid for FY11 – if the Foundation Level is reduced by \$700;
- A deficit budget this year if there is Proration of Mandated Categorical Payments for FY10 and FY11; and
- Numerous projected layoffs – people that will not have a job next school year because of the budget shortfall – either because of RIFs or a budgetary decision not to fill a job held by a person that is retiring.
- As a result of these cuts, River Bend CUSD #2 will have to consider reducing programs from preschool through high school.

Moreover, while we are in the middle of the largest state budget deficit in Illinois history, lawmakers continue to propose dozens of bills that place new unfunded or underfunded requirements on school districts. This is not the time to be adding unfunded or underfunded mandates on school districts when we are facing cataclysmic financial pressures in our districts.

In closing, encourage you to put education of the state's children first and work to prevent a reduction in education funding and to continue to maintain jobs within our communities.

Sincerely,

A School Where Everybody Is Somebody

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