Dear Oregon Education Investment Board:

I am writing today to urge you to establish adequate and stable funding for Oregon schools. As a parent of a recent college graduate and of a rising high school sophomore, I have witnessed severe school funding cuts for the past fifteen years. These cuts were always difficult, forcing parents and the community to band together to try to fill the voids. It is no longer possible to provide even an adequate education to Oregon's children, let alone a quality education, with the budgets allotted to State Education. Parents cannot give enough money or time to make up for the loss of teachers and programs, not to mention the abysmal condition of many of our school buildings. The current round of budget cuts means my son will not have the opportunities his older sister had within the same school district, which were in turn fewer than students who came before her. Among other losses, he may not be able to fulfill the language requirement for college entrance, complete the required P.E. course work for high school, or take performing arts classes.

Oregon slipped below the national average in per student expenditures in 2001 and has not recovered since. We should not provide a below average education to our students. This hurts our students, our families, our community, our economy, and our state. It is well past time for state wide leadership on funding Oregon schools. I implore you to exercise the leadership needed to provide our children with a quality education.

Sincerely,
Peg Goldie
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