

January 19, 2010

via e-mail : sparsons@ci.portland.or.us

✓
Portland City Council and City Auditor
c/o Susan Parsons Council Clerk
1221 SW 4th #110
Portland, Or 97204

Re: Agenda Items #110 – January 20, 2010 Portland City Council Meeting
To Vote for a \$28 Million Dollar Increase in Urban Renewal Spending Authority.

When you vote on this matter please take in to consideration the current school funding crisis and the need and consequences of Measures 66-67 which the Governor is on record says its failure to passage will cause the state to substantially reduce school funding.

Please consider the fact that approval of this additional funding reduces K-12 School Funding for at least the next 20 years by about one third of the requested amount plus interest on the bonds. This diversion of funding is over \$10 million. Also appreciate this impound of future school funding is a taking statewide. In fact only about 5% of the taking comes from local schools while 95% of the taking will be from Oregon Schools outside of Portland.

Kindly be advised that the public record for the Urban Renewal Areas to be enlarged which are Central Eastside , Gateway Regional Center and Interstate Corridor is absent the financial conditions of these existing accounts. This is to say it is not transparent as of the day of the voting of this measure if those Urban Renewal Accounts are financially up side down when considering the current property tax increments funding the existing obligations.

Please consider it is the responsibility of City Council to know the current conditions of those account before voting on increasing the. Likewise it is the responsibility of the Auditor to monitor and report to city council the financial condition of these funds.

Before this matter is voted on the public is due public access to the auditors report required. Some consideration should be given to the fairness of taking schools from other districts.

For the good of all Oregonians , state government should appreciate that allowing Portland or any other local governments to take funds from statewide school district funding is unconscionable and hypocritical to Oregon Politicians promises of sincere concern for school funding.

Sincerely,


Robert Butler

824 SW 18th Ave. Portland, Or 97205 503 222-4949