

EXHIBIT 6
DATE 3.28.07
SB 508



Townsend K-12 School District #1

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Brian Patrick. I am the Superintendent of Townsend K-12 School District # 1 located in Broadwater County. I am here today in support of the changes implemented in Senate Bill 508. The reason for my support is that my school district is located in one of the fastest growing counties in the state. On average, every three weeks I receive a request to comment on a sub-division in Broadwater County. The potential impact on our school district is enormous.

Starting in 1998, our district asked the voters to approve a new high school building to replace a three story structure which was built in 1917. It was also too small to accommodate the number of students enrolled in our high school at the time. Although most voters were aware of the need for a new building, it took four elections before the project was approved. During that time, the district did not ask for needed mills to support the General Fund Budget in hopes that would help taxpayers cushion the impact. Once the election passed, the board made a conscious decision to not ask the voters for needed money to support the General Fund. In any community, it is a catch 22 as to whether or not to run an election for needed mills just after a successful bond election.

On Monday of this week, I visited with the Broadwater County Commissioners about their stance on the changes this bill provides. Each of the commissioners supported the changes outlined in this bill.

Attached to my testimony is one example of a proposed subdivision in Broadwater County. As you can see, the size of this subdivision is roughly one-half the size of Townsend. The impact of this subdivision alone would trigger the need for another school building project. I believe that the people responsible for causing the need to build should help cushion the blow to the taxpayers, especially the elderly who live on a fixed income.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brian Patrick

