



D.A. Davidson & Co.
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SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 2

DATE 1-10-07

BILL NO. SB 123

Ian B. Davidson
Chairman

January 5, 2007

TO: Senate Education & Cultural Resources Committee

RE: Full-time Kindergarten proposal

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

My name is Ian Davidson, and I live in Great Falls, Montana. I regret that I am unable to attend this important hearing, and I very much appreciate your accepting my testimony with regard to the issue of full-time kindergarten.

As a grandfather of children who have experienced full-time kindergarten in Great Falls, I am very grateful for the benefits my grandchildren have received from this wonderful program. Their growth in one short year, both behaviorally and academically, has been very apparent.

I also support full-time kindergarten as a member of the business community. As one who has spent his career and built a business assessing investments, I see this program as a valuable investment in the economy of Montana. We know an educated workforce is the key to attracting new businesses to our state and growing our existing businesses. Studies tell us that full-time kindergarten lays a better educational and social foundation for our future engineers, teachers, poets, chemists and entrepreneurs. Such a foundation could allow more of our Montana students a better chance of succeeding academically, of excelling in school, and of graduating with achievable dreams.

Full-time kindergarten is a program that provides both short term and long-term benefits. It has the potential to immediately improve the education and daily lives of our students and to ensure a well-educated workforce for the future of our state.

I ask the members of the Education and Cultural Resources Committee to give SB 123 your full and positive consideration.

Respectfully

Ian B. Davidson
Chairman, Davidson Companies
Chairman, D.A. Davidson & Co.
Chairman, Plum Creek Timber Co.

IBD/jm