

EXHIBIT 10
DATE 3/28/11
HB 630

To: Members of the House Appropriations Committee
From: Dennis Nelson, Board Chairman, Bainville School District #64
Date: 3/28/11
Subject: HB 630

When we were made aware that the governor's proposal would take ninety percent of our oil and gas revenue, our board voted unanimously to "keep oil and gas revenue locally." House bill 630 does this. My obligation as a school board trustee is first to our students, and next to our local taxpayers. The governor's bill, HB 136, would devastate our district. It appears that this bill has been successfully defeated.

"We need to revise education funding," has been repeated numerous times to legislators. In past years, as the end of legislative session approached, education has been left underfunded. The answer has been to use one-time-only money to meet basic requirements, and worry about a better solution in two years.

I was asked, "Why is Bainville School willing to give up state aid?" (GTB, Block Grants, ANB) It's because we were asked to present a solution, and not just ignore the funding shortfalls. We realize there is a funding issue, and feel HB 630 is a viable option.

HB 630

- lays a strong foundation for permanent funding
- addresses the myth that Eastern Montana isn't paying their "fair share"
- opens a stream of funding for education that is not currently in place
- does not raise taxes

On behalf of Bainville School, I urge a vote in favor of House Bill 630.

Dennis Nelson