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Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee Members

Dear Senators:

We ask that you support SB107 currently before your committee. We have lived in Lockwood for 18 years and have 4 children and 3 grandchildren. Two of our children attended High School in School District #2 and two of our children are attending Huntley Project High School, a Class B District. We believe that SB107 is **not** about one size of a school district being better than another because one is large and one is small. It is essentially about the following:

1. We made decisions as to where our children would attend school based upon what would be best for **each child**. As any of you who are parents, grand-parents, aunts or uncles know, every child is unique and what is best for one may not be best for another. This was the case in our family. Fortunately, we had the time and resources which allowed two of our children to attend high school out of district at Huntley Project. We were also fortunate that Huntley Project agreed to allow our children attend school there. If Lockwood had a High School, our children would likely have attended High School in their home town, along with their classmates who they have known since they were in Kindergarten.
2. The taxpayers of a community such as Lockwood should have the right to vote to expand from a K-8 District to a K-12 District. A vote on this matter in Lockwood along with the accompanying tax burden may or may not be successful. Regardless of the outcome, the community deserves to weigh in on this important decision in a democratic way – by a vote of the residents.

As you consider SB107 please keep in mind that what is best for our students – **each child** – should be the basis for your decision on this proposed legislation. Secondly, please allow the decision to expand from a K-8 to K-12 District to be made by the citizens who will foot the bill.

If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact us. We thank you for your service to the citizens of Montana.

Sincerely,

Mike and Sue Vinton