SENATE EDUCATION
Exhibit No. 4
Date 2/11/15
Bill No. SB 260

FAIRVIEW SCHOOLS

Richland Co. Dist. 13 (Elementary)
Richland Co. Dist. 3 (High School)

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SB 260
F. Moore

Chairman Brown,

Fairview School Districts #3 & #13 sit on the North Dakota border, 30 miles from Williston, ND. Fairview has become a bedroom community for people working in Williston and Watford City, ND. Today the K-12 enrollment is 304 students. The school hasn't had this big of an enrollment since 1996 when we moved from Class B to Class C. In August, school started with 99 new students. That's 33% of the student population. By January, 50 students had left the school. In the last week 10 new students enrolled. The constant movement of families in and out Fairview has put a burden on the teaching staff. Six classroom aides work full time in the elementary helping children with high needs. This constant movement has caused these children to fall behind academically. Students have come from 15 states and 2 foreign countries to live in Fairview. Currently Fairview has children who are Spanish and Russian speaking only attending classes. Families reside with friends in homes until they find housing for themselves. Many families live in RV campers. Staffing can be an issue too. As of today, Fairview is fully staffed. This is credited to the board foreseeing the issue and raising hourly employee salaries to be competitive with other service providers in the community. Fairview has also been forced to provide housing to staff with the high rates in the area. Without housing, many critical positions including teachers, custodians and cooks would be empty.

Fairview School appreciates the efforts made by Senator Moore in support of Eastern Montana and specifically those schools being affected by the Bakken. Fairview supports the concentric circle mechanism. The circles weren't as far reaching as originally expected and failed to reach some schools in the area that have been impacted by the oil production. Fairview supports Senator Moore's attempt to rectify this problem. Making funds available to those schools and utilizing the concentric circle will be wise use of oil funds.

Luke Kloker
Superintendent

Jacklyn Young
Business Manager