

January 31, 2017

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100 S College Street
House Bill 2143- Testimony For Committee on K-12 Education Budget

Dear Republican Campbell and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns about the Farm to School restrictions proposed in House Bill 2143.

As a rural educator that provides food "farm to school" I oppose this bill.

In the bill it there is an attempt to "streamline" purchasing for schools by requiring some purchasing to be done strictly by the Department of Administration. "The proposal requires school boards to go through the Department of Administration for information technology equipment, services and software, food and fuel. (exception.... Locally within 1% of total cost)."

As you can see this bill would have negative effects on rural school that already have budgeting and finance restrictions. Our school district administration and school board feel that they are adequately in tune with expenses and work to bid out expenses to get the best deal possible. As a district it is preferred that that we use our own purchasing methods and have control of decisions instead of legislation taking this role. We are all aware of tight budgets and having the power locally insure that we are finding what is best for the school and the students we serve.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or would like to discuss this matter further.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns.

Tiffany Poet

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