

May 6, 2014

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor-HHS-Education and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor-HHS-Education and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor-HHS-Education and Related Agencies
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor-HHS-Education and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives

Chairmen Harkin and Kingston, Ranking Members Moran and DeLauro:

The undersigned organizations urge you to reject the Administration's Fiscal Year 2015 budget proposal to eliminate funding for Impact Aid Federal Properties.

When Impact Aid was created in 1950, the federal government accepted the responsibility of a citizen, a business owner, a landlord in helping to finance public education – in areas with a federal presence. Today, Impact Aid provides critical funding to over 1,300 public school districts nationwide that educate military children, children residing on Indian lands, children living in federal low-rent housing facilities, children of civilian employees of the federal government, and the children in school districts with significant tax-exempt federal property.

The budget request recommends the elimination of funding for Impact Aid (Title VIII), Section 8002 (Federal Properties) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Currently, this \$67 million line item provides funding to over 200 school districts in 29 states as a replacement for the lost local revenue caused by the federal presence. Each of these school districts is unique – eligible property includes national parks, grasslands and laboratories, Army Corps of Engineering projects, and both the Air Force and West Point Military Academies – however, they all face the same financial challenge: a loss of taxable property and, as a result, a loss of local revenue, but just as many students to educate. In some communities, the federal government is the largest landowner; many are small and in rural areas.

Funding must be maintained for the benefit of all students in these districts. Cuts would cause financial harm as Impact Aid supports personnel and professional development, academic materials, transportation, technology, and other general operating expenses. Elimination of this funding stream would be a reversal on a 64-year commitment to federally impacted communities, so we urge you to continue funding Impact Aid Federal Properties.

Sincerely,

AASA, The School Superintendents Association
American Association of Classified School Employees
American Counseling Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Federation of School Administrators

American Federation of Teachers
American Library Association
American School Counselor Association
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Arizona State Impact Aid Association
Association of Educational Service Agencies
Association of Mid-to-Low LOT Schools
Association of School Business Officials International
Association of the United States Army
Association of the United States Navy
California Association of Federally Impacted Schools
California School Employees Association
Chief Warrant & Warrant Officers Association, U.S. Coast Guard
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service
FED ED
Fleet Reserve Association
Gold Star Wives of America
Impact Schools of South Dakota
Indian Impacted Schools of Montana
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Magnet Schools of America
Military Child Education Coalition
Military Impacted Schools Association
Military Officers Association of America
National 8002 Impacted Schools
National Association for Music Education
National Association of Counties
National Association of Elementary School Principals
National Association of Federally Impacted Schools
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Secondary School Principals
National Association of State Directors of Special Education
National Congress of American Indians
National Council for Impacted Schools
National Education Association
National Guard Association of the United States
National Indian Education Association
National Indian Impacted Schools Association
National Military Family Association
National PTA
National Rural Education Advocacy Coalition
National Rural Education Association
National School Boards Association
National Superintendents Roundtable
National Title I Association
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association
Oklahoma Association Serving Impacted Schools
Organizations Concerned about Rural Education
Rebuild America's Schools
Rural School and Community Trust
School Social Work Association of America

Texas Association of Federally Impacted Schools
U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association
United States Army Warrant Officers Association
Washington State Impact Aid Association

Cc:

Senate Impact Aid Coalition
House Impact Aid Coalition