

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