



REBUILD AMERICA'S SCHOOLS

A National Coalition

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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Birmingham Public, AL
Boston, MA
Broward County, FL
Brownsville, TX
Chicago, IL
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Clark County, NV
Compton, CA
Corpus Christi, TX
Dayton, OH
Detroit, MI
Escambia, FL
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Jefferson Parish, LA
Jersey City, NJ
McAllen, TX
Memphis, TN
Miami-Dade, FL
Milwaukee, WI
Minneapolis, MN
Montgomery, AL
Nashville, TN
Newark, NJ
New Orleans, LA
New York, NY
Norfolk, VA
Oklahoma City, OK
Omaha, NE
Pharr-San Juan-Alamo, TX
Philadelphia, PA
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Rochester, NY
Savannah-Chatham, GA
St. Louis, MO
St. Paul, MN
Toledo, OH
Tulsa, OK
Ysleta, TX

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National Parent Teacher Association □ Council of The Great City Schools □ National Education Association
American Federation of Teachers □ American Association of School Administrators □ National School Boards Association
National Association of Elementary School Principals □ National Association of Secondary School Principals
NAACP □ National Association of Federally Impacted Schools □ American Institute of Architects
Organizations Concerned About Rural Education □ National Rural Education Association
Californians for School Facilities

May 12, 2014

The Honorable Ron Wyden, Chair
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Wyden:

Rebuild America's Schools is writing to **support S. 2260 the bipartisan Expire Act and the Qualified Zone Academy Bond (QZAB)** program as modified.

Rebuild America Schools supports the extension of QZABs originally enacted in the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 and extended with bipartisan support in subsequent Congresses. **Oregon school districts have used QZABs since 1999. In the last ten years Oregon school districts including John Day, Prairie City, La Grande, Warrentown- Hammond, and Portland used \$62 million in QZAB bonds to help renovate and repair local schools.** QZABs are being used by school districts in every state to renovate, repair and modernize school buildings and classrooms.

The related Qualified School Construction Bond (QSCB) program has provided federal financing for the construction, rehabilitation, and repair of public school facilities. School districts in Oregon, Utah, West Virginia, Michigan, Iowa, Ohio, New York, Washington, Florida, Georgia, Texas, Pennsylvania, Maryland, North Carolina and virtually every state are using these bonds to build and renovate modern, energy efficient 21st Century schools. In 2010-2011 school districts in forty-nine states used over \$11 billion in QSCB bond financing to build and renovate more energy efficient 21st Century schools in communities across the country.

QZABs and QSCBs are helping school districts provide modern, more energy and technologically efficient schools improving learning opportunities for students. Support through QZABs and QSCBs are helping repair, renovate and modernize America's school infrastructure and stimulating and creating jobs in Oregon and every state. These jobs are generated in the construction industry among suppliers, ranging from architects and engineers to roofing, heating and cooling contractors and other skilled construction workers who modernize, renovate and repair schools. Modern, energy efficient schools are helping local communities increase opportunities for all students to develop the educational skills necessary to achieve and succeed in the 21st century workforce.

QZABs and QSCBs are supporting the capacity of Oregon school districts to make major upgrades, renovations, and to build facilities. Oregon school districts have successfully utilized the QZAB program since 1999. In 2010 and 2011 Oregon school districts used over \$140 million in Qualified School Construction Bonds to build and modernize schools in Oregon communities.

Communities in Oregon and in every state are using QZABs and QSCBs to renovate and modernize their local schools providing their students improved opportunities to achieve academically and to prepare for successful 21st Century careers.

Rebuild America's Schools appreciates your leadership and the work of the work of the Senate Finance Committee in preparing S. 2260, tax extenders legislation including extension of the well-used and cost-efficient Qualified Zone Academy Bond program supporting school modernization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Canavan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Robert P. Canavan
Chair