

Dear Howard,

Not surprisingly, many start-of-school stories this year are focusing on school funding – or the lack thereof – and how students and schools and teachers are coping with fewer resources, larger class sizes, fewer work days, etc. I'm writing today to encourage you to the opportunity to discuss with local reporters the importance of the **legislative revenue package** likely to be referred to voters on the January 26, 2010 ballot.

As you know, Howard, in addition making some pretty severe cuts to the state budget (including reduced funding from \$6.245 billion in 2007-09 to \$6.0 billion in 2009-11 for schools), the 2009 Oregon legislature passed two bills that increase some corporate and personal income taxes. These bills raise **\$733 million**, which is **already included in the 2009-11 state budget**, with the aim of preventing further cuts to schools, human services, healthcare and public safety. The likely January referendum will determine whether the \$733 million stays in the state budget, or whether the legislature will be faced with making even deeper cuts (estimated at 285 million for K-12) during the February 2010 special session.

Here is a link to some basic ["flash card" facts](#) about the revenue package that you may find useful. We are working with OASBO and NWRESA on some additional materials; we'll have more for you in the coming weeks and at the Off The Record meeting October 9.

In the meantime, Howard, as you talk with reporters and other key communicators over the next several weeks, will you please be sure to include the revenue package in your conversations?

Thank you.

Craig

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