

(Date)

The Honorable (Legislature Name)

(Street)

(City)(Zip)

Dear (Legislature Name):

Transportation funding is crucial to school districts such as Jasper County CUSD #1. Having lost over \$3.8 million in revenue over the last four years, Jasper County students are already feeling the impact of fewer classroom dollars and unfunded mandates. The continued reduction of transportation dollars coupled with the increasing costs of transportation only place additional burdens on local school districts.

The Governor's office has gone on record stating that "getting kids to school is a local responsibility" and that transportation costs can be born out of a school district's General State Aid. Jasper County CUSD #1 is the largest school district geographically in Illinois covering 462 square miles, owning 56 buses and traveling over 680,000 miles per year. The decreased revenue from General State Aide and CPPRT has once again placed our district in a very difficult situation. To further utilize GSA to fund transportation will only result in even less funding available for classroom instruction and student achievement.

In October you will have an opportunity to restore funding to transportation and other critical education programs that were recently cut from the state budget. I urge you to work to restore these and other line item reductions to education funding in Illinois. Thank you for the work you do for the State of Illinois.

Respectfully,

(Name)

(Street)

(City,Zip)