



National Association of Federally Impacted Schools

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July 16, 2009

The Honorable George Miller, Chairman
Committee on Education and Labor
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Miller:

On behalf of the nation's 1,400 federally connected school districts, the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools wishes to express our support for The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act. In addition to providing a stable funding source for Pell Grants and other student aid programs, it will also fund the facility needs as included in the 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act.

Facility needs for federally connected school districts continues to be a challenge that many of these districts cannot possibly address without federal assistance. Thanks to your support and through the leadership of Chairman Obey, a \$100 million set-a-side for federally connected school districts was included in the ARRA. NAFIS assisted in that effort by surveying our membership to determine their facility needs. Our most heavily impacted districts responded identifying over \$1.5 billion in facility needs. Although we very much appreciate the ARRA investment, it is a far cry from what is needed, keeping in mind that these districts in most cases have a very limited tax base on which to support any kind of bonding effort.

The 21st Century Green High-Performing Public School Facilities Act that has already passed the House, would now be funded under the provisions of H.R. 3221. Passage of this legislation will help districts some of which are using facilities once operated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs; others that are trying to find ways in which to fund the need to expand facilities to address the hundreds of incoming military dependent students flooding into their districts due to the Department of Defense force restructuring initiative.

The NAFIS Family

MISA
*Military Impacted Schools
Association*

NIISA
*National Indian Impacted
Schools Association*

Section 8002 Districts
*Federal Property
Districts*

Low/Mid LOT
*Association of
Low/Mid LOT Schools*

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The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools urges the House Education and Labor Committee to approve H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act. The investment embodied in this legislation will insure that all students have access to higher education no matter their economic status, and in addition will provide the facility dollars to elementary and secondary schools that will provide these same students a learning environment that will give them every opportunity to succeed.

Thanks you for your continued support and leadership

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John B. Forkenbrock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "B".

John B. Forkenbrock
Executive Director