

Dan Bowden
110 N. Jackson St.
Cuba City, WI 53807

Wisconsin Rural Schools Task Force
Representative Rob Swearingen

Representative Swearingen,

Thank you for visiting the Cuba City School District. My name is Dan Bowden and I'm a board member of the District. I'm a lifelong resident of Cuba City, and have 2 daughters that attend school here. We have many successes in Cuba City and are very proud of our school. Our kids work very hard and excel not only in academics but also extra curricular activities. My hope is for my children and future generations of children to continue to receive a first-rate education here in Cuba City.

I'm very concerned about what school choice vouchers will do to our school. The expansion of vouchers across the state will cut vital funding to our school and obstruct the children's learning. I ask you not to expand school choice vouchers any further throughout the state.

I also ask that you continue to raise funding increases past the \$150 per student that is in the current budget. We all know that increases in operational costs are inevitable. Without the increases, we have virtually no other options than cutting services when things like healthcare, utilities and transportation costs swell.

In rural municipalities, schools are very much their identities. Schools are a true hub of the community. Please lift the freeze on Fund 80. This fund is a very useful tool that we use to provide services to students of the district, private school students in the district, and the entire community as a whole. That funding authority is best kept in local hands than those outside of the district.

Please help maintain the availability of affordable broadband to rural schools. WiscNet provides an invaluable service to rural schools at a price that meets our budgetary needs. Mandating the breakup of WiscNet would drive up the costs of broadband when it is vitally needed in every classroom.

Thank you again for visiting Cuba City and your commitment to education in rural schools. We appreciate being heard. We look forward to a bright future here in Cuba City and the entire state of Wisconsin.

A friend in education,

Dan Bowden