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Good morning Chairman Rehberg, Ranking Member DeLauro and members of the subcommittee.

My name is Ron Seaver and I am the superintendent of schools for Central Union Elementary School District, in Lemoore California. I'm here to share with the subcommittee the importance of Impact Aid to the Central Union Elementary School District and showcase the direct impact these dollars have on programs, staff, and building a successful total school program for our students.

Before I begin Mr. Chairman, I would like to share with you my Montana connection. I'm also the proud father of Nichole Walker who is a 6th grade teacher in the Great Falls Public Schools located in your home state where her school, Loy Elementary has 95% military dependents and is adjacent to Malmstrom Air Force Base.

Central Union Elementary School District serves the families of Naval Air Station Lemoore and the Tachi -Yokut Tribe. Our district is situated in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley, in rural Kings County, one of the nation's richest agricultural areas and home to the Naval Air Station Lemoore and the Tachi Yokut Rancheria; although not referred to as a reservation as in Montana, remains non-taxable tribal land due to its restricted status. The District is made up of two elementary schools located on the naval base, one elementary school serving the Rancheria and outlying areas and one elementary school serving the community of Stratford, which is supported 100% by the agriculture industry. Central Union is also a member of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools, the Military Impacted Schools Association, and the National Indian Impacted Schools Association.

With an enrollment fluctuating over the last couple of years between 1,850 and 1,976 students and a budget of 20 million dollars for the 2012-13 school year, Impact Aid is 30% of the District's revenue source. Based on the need-based *Learning Opportunity Threshold (LOT)* formula that was added to the Impact Aid statute in 1994 to be used when the program is not fully funded, our district is considered a 100% LOT district. The LOT is derived by summing the percentage of federal students and the percentage that Impact Aid dollars make up of our total current expenditures. Central's most recent Federal Impact Aid 8003 application on October 19, 2011 indicates that 59.82% of the District enrollment is military dependents and 12.5% Native American children. When you add the 30% of our budget that is Impact Aid – you can see how our 100% LOT percentage is arrived at (LOT % cannot exceed 100%) -- bottom line we have a high dependence on Impact Aid funding.

The District also receives section 8007 (construction) formula funds, when available, for maintenance and approximately \$95,000 in section 8003(d) special education funds.

Over the years, Central Union Elementary School District has built solid educational programs with the help of the Impact Aid dollars: Let me now share with you six areas where Impact Aid dollars have made a difference, allowing our district to provide a quality program to our students.

Technology

Impact Aid has allowed our district to build a quality technology program that includes countywide "Wireless Broadband" with speeds up to two (2) gigabits per second connective to all sites. This includes multiple drops in each classroom and offices. Classroom teachers all have laptops, which they can take home for planning and/or inputting grades for the parent online access program. In addition, students are able to video conference with parents whether it is at home, at work or in a different country or deployment. The District operates six computer labs equipped with Apple computers. Along with the computer labs, each classroom has two – five computers. Additionally, we have now ventured into the use of "mobile devices". Currently we have four mobile iPad labs and twenty-six mobile iPod touch labs concentrated mostly in the fourth and fifth grades. Additionally, we have another forty-six iPads being used in classroom mini labs and by teachers. Our current computer and mobile device ratio to students as reported on the 2011-12 California Basic Educational Data System (CBEDS) is 1.7 students per device.

Fine Arts

Because of Impact Aid funding we are one of the few elementary school districts that continues to support music, art, dance, band, jazz band and drama in our schools. While each of the schools has focused in on different areas due to staffing, each of the school sites has great programs with high student participation and community support.

Staffing

Personnel costs constitute 80.77 percent of the District's budget. Besides classroom teachers, aides, custodians, office staff and administration, the District has a full time counselor, psychologist, four library clerks, one art teacher, two art/music teachers, one band teacher, one physical education teacher, two preschool teachers, two registered nurses, two licensed vocational nurses and one opportunity class teacher. In working with native children from the Tachi-Yokut Tribe our staff uses a constructivists teaching approach. Through what is called "guide discovery" teachers lead students through questions and activities to discover, discuss, appreciate and verbalize the new knowledge or the learning objective. This approach has proven to be an effective teaching tool and again Impact Aid dollars help support this program.

Social Development and Community Outreach

Stratford School serving the community of Stratford is home of the District's Family Resource Center (FRC). Due to the isolation of the community and limited transportation, the FRC is the community connecting point for many families. The FRC offers internet connectivity, helps parents maneuver through the various federal, state and county systems, offers parent education classes and does a monthly food distribution in connection with Kings Community Action Organization. The District has two social development programs that help students at various grade levels. Second Step is an evidenced based program for students in grades kindergarten through fifth grades. The curriculum deals with Empathy, Emotions, Problem Solving and Anger Management. Project Alert is also an evidenced based program for grades sixth through eighth. The curriculum deals with substance abuse prevention. Along with the two evidenced based programs the District also offers a 24/7 Bully and Safety Hotline through the internet or toll free calling.

Special Education

Central Union Elementary School District belongs to the Kings County Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA). Services provided at the school sites are speech and language therapy, Special Day Class (SDC) for those students who need 50 percent or more of their day with extra support and Resource Specialist assistance for those students who need support less than 50 percent of their day. For low incidence handicaps, students are bussed to one of the Kings County classrooms. Currently, special education encroaches on our general fund in the amount of four hundred and twenty thousand dollars (\$420,000) of which we normally receive approximately \$95,000 from the Impact Aid disability line item.

Building and Grounds

While two of the schools in the District were built in the fifties and two schools in the sixties, the sites are well maintained and recently, have had new data wiring installed. Over the last four years, sites have been painted and reroofed. By the end of April, three sites will be operating on solar energy. Because of the challenges in structures and installation, older schools do require extra care and additional energy costs. Section 8007 construction formula funds (when we receive them) help us with minor maintenance/repairs.

I have briefly shared with you the good news – what we have been able to do through a combination of funding received from state, local – limited as it is – and Impact Aid dollars. Now let me touch on the bad news – or least areas of concern.

As reported in the news, California's education budget is in a downward spiral. Over the last four years, Central Union has experienced a 20.4 percent cut in funding with 38 percent of the remaining funding deferred into the following year causing a cash flow issue. Additional mid-year cuts continue to loom from year to year.

When thirty percent of your budget depends on Impact Aid funding, it becomes imbedded in all of our programs and staff positions as described above. When Impact Aid funding drops, staff and student programs get dropped too. Looking at the last four years, Central Union Elementary School District has been a 100% LOT District and appropriations have been at a level where all districts were paid at 100% of their LOT percentage. However in both 2011 and 2012 for the first time since FY 1997 the LOT percentage payout has been

prorated to a level below 100%; down to 90% and 85% respectfully for a total loss to the District of one million, seven hundred and eighty four thousand, eight hundred (\$1,784,800). The future does not look any brighter, with a projection of 90% proration for next year and a possible additional cut of 9.1% under sequestration. In addition, Section 8007, maintenance, has been paid only two years out of the last five years.

Mr. Chairman let me also point out that there are 18 school districts in California and 235 districts in 30 states that receive payments under the Federal Property (Section 8002) line item. As you know the Administration's FY 2013 budget proposes to eliminate dollars for this program. The Administration's rationale is based on a lack of understanding of the purpose of the Section 8002 program. Simply put when a school district loses taxable land due to Federal acquisition, it loses part of its tax base. Districts in this program have as little as 7% of property that is taxable. Section 8002 is intended to make-up for that loss at least in part. The elimination of this line item within the Impact Aid Program either forces these districts to ask taxpayers to make up for the loss or cutback or possibly even eliminate a program. On behalf of the 235 Federal property districts I would ask you to reject the Administration's proposal and maintain Section 8002 funding.

Central Union Elementary School District has created a wonderful education opportunity for its students. Numerous times, over the years, the Commanding Officer of the base and service members have commented on the fact that they chose NAS Lemoore as their duty station because of the schools located on NAS Lemoore. A large portion of this success is through the use of Impact Aid dollars. Whether school districts have federal properties, federal housing, Native American or military, the presence of the federal government limits the ability to tax the property and improvements. In order to continue to provide a quality education for all our students, Central Union will need continuing financial support through Impact Aid. All of the Impact Aid community knows and appreciates the fact that you have been a true supporter and champion for Impact Aid. The Impact Aid community stands ready to assist you and your staff in every way possible.

Thank you!