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Congress of the United States
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March 8, 2013

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The Honorable Arne Duncan
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:

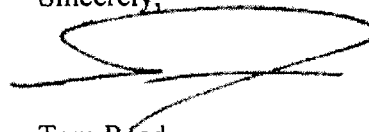
I write today in regards to federal funding for K-12 education programs in light of the recent automatic spending cuts enacted on March 1, 2013 as part of the Budget Control Act of 2013.

As the Department of Education implements these spending cuts I would like to inquire about any flexibility the agency may be using when it comes to the prioritization of funding for our nation's highest-need school districts. Over the past several weeks I have been hearing from local school Superintendents who are concerned with the potential impact the sequester may have on their already struggling school districts. Across the country in many rural areas schools are receiving less and less aid while their student population is becoming more and more reliant on the critical services they provide. Rural districts usually do not have the access to additional services or capital that their more urban counterparts may benefit from.

While the Department of Education works to implement these cuts I ask for any specific information you may have for our nation's highest need districts. Within all relevant rules and regulations I ask that these critical districts are taken into consideration as you determine how to implement spending cuts for the coming school year.

Please feel free to contact Laura Ringdahl in my office at (202) 225-3161 with any additional questions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Tom Reed
Member of Congress