

RAINIER HIGH SCHOOL

308 2nd Street West
Rainier, Washington 98576
(360) 446-2205

Jeff Weeks
Principal

December 8, 2008

Dear Joint Task Force Committee Members,

There are many challenges facing us in public education and in our state given the tough economic times that we are facing. I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your hard work, dedication and foresight to improving our basic education funding and public school system.

You have heard from many of us in the field that have requested funding to enhance student access to literature and improved literacy skills by providing funding for school libraries and certificated, trained librarians in schools. Thank you for listening and including these items in your proposals. I would like to draw your attention to a critical set of skills that your committee may have over looked.

For our students to become successful contributors in society, they will need to become consumers and users of information and technology. I recommend that we look to expand the state's learning goals to include that Washington's students be effective users of information and technology; that every student graduates information literate, digitally skilled, and technologically competent.

Washington State prides itself in taking the lead on educational issues. With companies like Boeing and Microsoft in our own backyard, they are looking for workers who can research and navigate new information pathways. Here is our opportunity to insure that all of our students are well rounded and ready to lead us in the future by mastering information and technology. My children and the children I represent will thank you for helping make this happen for them.

Respectfully,



Jeff Weeks
Principal