

State Representative  
Cliff Bentz  
House District 60

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## Rep. Bentz Visits With School Officials

SALEM--Rep. Cliff Bentz met with members of several local school districts on Tuesday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Capitol to discuss their testimony on Senate Bill 250.

Senate Bill 250 would: (1) allow a school district to opt-out of an Education Service District (ESD); (2) require the ESD to distribute the prorated amount of state funding for ESD services back to the school district; and (3) give the school district the ability to rejoin the ESD.

An ESD's purpose is to provide an array of educational programs and services to multiple school districts. ESD services can include: special education, speech therapy, preschool programs, para-educator training, and instructional support and assessment.

Rep. Bentz said, "Current law does not allow a school district to opt-out of ESD services. This bill would allow a school district to purchase services from a variety of sources, not just an ESD."

Superintendent Walter Wegener (Baker SD), Superintendent Lorrie Andrews (Burnt River SD), Superintendent Mike Corley (Pine-Eagle SD), Business Manager Doug Daulton (Baker SD), Board Member Ginger Savage (Baker SD), and Special Education Director Barry Nemec (Baker SD), traveled to Salem to participate in a public hearing on SB 250 in front of the Senate Education and Workforce Development Committee.

Rep. Bentz said, "I appreciate the work our local school districts do to support our students. Senate Bill 250 provides us with the opportunity to discuss and debate the difficult and challenging issue of small school needs in a reduced budget environment."

An additional public hearing on this measure has been scheduled for Feb. 10 at 1 p.m. (PST). If the bill is successful in this committee, it will move on to the Senate Finance and Revenue Committee.

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