

3258 Cabin Creek Rd.  
Manchester, OH 45144  
May 31, 2020

Senator Matt Dolan, Chairman  
Senate Finance Subcommittee  
Senate Building  
1 Capitol Square, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Senator Dolan:

My name is Vic Bowman. I am a retired teachers from the Manchester Local School District in Manchester, Ohio in Adams County. I hope I don't make this letter too lengthy, as I am very passionate about my town, my school, and our kids. I spoke with our school board president, Mr. Rick Foster, asking what I could do to possibly help our plight. He suggested I could write a letter. We are in desperate need of help from Columbus. I would ask that a copy of this letter also be sent to Governor DeWine and I am extending an invitation to both you and the Governor to schedule a visit to Manchester and our schools to see first hand the dire situation we are now in.

Our town and school have taken several 'punches to the gut' recently. Through no fault of our own, we have gone from a thriving district to one that has been forced to close our libraries, lay off staff (both certified and classified), cut all funding for football, and close our recently constructed educational athletic center that houses a community weight room, walking track, basketball and volleyball courts, community use rooms, locker rooms, student computer lab, and concession areas.

Located along the Ohio River, our town became the site of two power plants some 40-50 years ago and the accompanying tax base that came along with them. We didn't require state assistance during that long span. Then the 'punches began to fall: A freeze on funding (not real clear on this part), BOTH power plants close at once along with their tax money, the company that buys the land to demolish the plants is suing for a lower tax basis and for return of overpayment, and then the covid-19 pandemic and the education funding cuts across the state. All combined to leave us in dire straights that are more severe than any other district in the state!

I am asking that you and your committee look at the extenuating circumstances affecting our district alone, and to please make an exception to restore some of our funding so we may alleviate some of these cuts that affect not only our school staff and kids, but the entire community. Manchester is a very poor community and the school and MEAC are/were a couple of the bright spots that have now been dimmed. Many people from our town and others in the area utilized our facilities to study, meet, workout, and other healthy activities. We were a Silver Sneakers facility that many senior citizens used, we hosted the summer youth programs, and were used by Venture Productions a work/life training center for disabled and handicapped adults. Our elementary library is vital as were the excellent teachers and coaches we lost to the recent RIF. After teaching in our district for 32 years, I am passionate about our school, I still sub teach in fact. Our board members and superintendent are doing what they have to do to try to get us in the black in the next couple of years, but that is a very tough thing for them. No one wants to let great staff members go, or cut valuable facilities or programs. Please, look at our situation and see if we

should qualify for an exception due to the extenuating circumstances, and restore some funding so that our board can restore some of the cuts and have a more equitable budget to work with. They have been working diligently, with many sleepless nights trying to do what is best for our district and our students. I appreciate your attention to this important matter and to reading my letter. I would love for the Governor to get to read this as well. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Victor Bowman  
MHS teacher/coach, retired