

January 15, 2007

Governor Jim Doyle
P.O. Box 7863
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Governor Doyle,

The Butternut School District is a five time State and Nationally recognized award winning Blue Ribbon School. State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster, during her visit to our school and community, said **"Butternut has so much of what other schools in the state are striving for"**. At a time when millions of dollars are being spent to decentralize large schools to ensure academic achievement, we, a nationally recognized award winning school, can no longer keep the doors open. Despite our great accomplishments, we are facing having to close our school. This closure comes as a result of being recognized as a rich district because of our extremely high property values. This, of course, has drastically reduced our state aid to the point where we are no longer able to maintain this award winning school.

In addition to being very frugal and creative in the fiscal management of the district, the Butternut School has maintained an alliance with WAES (Wisconsin Association for Excellent Schools). This partnership continues to advocate for a change in the school funding system as well as increased categorical aid, especially for required special education programming. Governor, in 2003, you were quoted in the Milwaukee Journal, "the current method of school funding is unfair and promises to lead the push for a new system." Please, with your awareness that the system is broke, we beg of you to work with the Legislature to begin a comprehensive reform of the school-funding system for 2007. The quality and equity of education must be consistent across the state and not determined by one's zip code.

In recognition of our prestigious state, and your quest for a strong economic future, maintaining an excellent educational system is essential. In continued support for the many tremendous resources Wisconsin has to offer, the development of our human resources is paramount. We must invest in our schools and students as they are the future. We believe, that which we do to children, they will do to society. Please recognize, support and encourage the legislature to support the budget prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

We applaud your continued championship for public education. We pledge our continued support to your laborious efforts to sponsor new initiatives in Wisconsin. We recognize the proud Wisconsin heritage and its continued reputation as a progressive state-a great place to live and raise a family.

Sincerely,

Butternut School District
Board of Education