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TO:

Oregon County Commissioners

From:

"LINKING GOVERNMENTS LOCALLY"

Board of Directors

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Association of Oregon Counties

RE: Participation in Back to School Week,

April 28 - May 2, 2003!

DATE:

February 15, 2003

At a recent meeting, our board enthusiastically endorsed **Back to School Week!** — a week in the spring when schools open their doors to invite their community in for a visit. The fourth annual **Back to School Week, April 28 — May 2, 2003** is sponsored by the Statewide Organization for Schools (SOS) with a goal of strengthening the connection between schools and communities.

During the last decade, Oregon voters have been asked repeatedly to make decisions on issues relating to schools and education. Yet three out of four Oregon adults have no children in school and no opportunity to know what goes on in Oregon schools. Schools are different today and Back to School Week is a chance for the three out of four Oregon adults who do not have kids in school to see for themselves the successes and challenges of today's schools.

In endorsing Back to School Week, we join with the Oregon League of Cities, Oregon League of Women Voters, Oregon Mayors Association, Oregon Business Council, Oregon School Board Association, and others in building a stronger connection between schools and communities. But we are asking you to do more than join in our endorsement. We are asking you to participate. Here's how:

- Plan to hold an April/May meeting in a neighborhood school. Contact a school superintendent, principal, or school board member and schedule a meeting at school during *BTSW 2003*. The principal, students and/or teachers at the school can prepare a brief presentation to give Commissioners the opportunity to see for themselves the exciting things going on in public schools today.
- Write a letter to the editor of the local newspapers encouraging community members to participate in *Back to School Week*. Or, write a letter letting members of your community know what you learned from your visit.

Enclosed is the Back to School Week brochure that gives you an idea of the rewards of participation. Let's join Chambers of Commerce, Rotary, Kiwanis and Lions Clubs, and other elected officials in going back to school!

If you need help making contact with schools in your community, or would like more information, contact Statewide Organization for Schools: (503) 228-3465, or email: sos@sosoregon.org

739 schools in 156 Oregon communities took part in Back to School Week since 2000. Total Mir 6 (Kipn C'alst ame Hist Hillin Sugar Saisters. Fostenny La Brands Angrea Edinier Calarinaldi Boodburn Planisa Melalla 1436 semille 1 Fossil . Spiray Shade Cove E Marie FLEAVER reck Finnels Mr. Angel Rockatoan Engene Alona Terreponne Satherline Dendleton Parkrose Fleaver reck French. Beaverton Auro "One member said this was the Dalles Vale Stanfield Percland Fredsmere best meeting we've ever had. St. Helens Buck Tunato Rednand Great to get older people Farina I was delighted to attend four Poster . Genside back-to-school!" Sandy different classes and have lunch in MARIEN Charles Ross STAMPLEDAG Grand Ronde Ontario Middle School." Cherryood Columbia View Kiwanis Arande "Back to School Week is an ideal Tillamook State Representative Tom Butler Tigard opportunity for people to see what Ontario great things teachars are doing in Marrington Trout date Cloverdale Independence our classifioms today." Bolton "It was back to school for a Vermina State Senator Susan Castillo Is Back to School Week working? number of adults two weeks Lincoln City 1 Villami Eugene ago when they were invited Committe Yes! Since the first Back to School Week in-Mapleton Kelzer State Superintendent to visit the Creswell schools 2000, thousands of Oregonians have visited 1 Pinchester Etorence of Public Instruction - Elect a chance to walk the halls schools - many for the first time in years/ The Merguart Wolf Br again, hear the bells and responses from participants are overwhelmingly A Frank Marion banging lockers and sample positive. News coverage of local events helps Eaker City Hora Bond that lunchroom fare." bring Back to School Week to Oregonians Sinstair Mill Boardman who do not personally participate. edsport Creswell Chronicle "Our May Day breakfast Willamina City Fairns May 8, 2002 had about 230 people ... "The majority of adult Oregonians won't set foot Hand River Bandon inside school during the next year. However, they Moures Legislators and Mayors Danille A Charm attended." vote on bond measures, initiatives and political Brookings Mr. Stain Hain candidates who shape our schools. That is why Linda Clem "Extremely positive experience! Stanfield Coos Bay Back to School Week, thoughtfully promoted by **Coos Bay Schools** Brought 50 influential adults Heppiner the Statewide Organization for Schools, is Adrian from the community into the Comille Oakridae worthy of your time." Hines high school." Fill Arist Florence "I went to the Elkton grade Salem LaGrande Salem Statesman-Journal Robert Ball Gresham school and read to the Gold Beach July 21, 2001 Cottage Grove Rotary Club kindergarten class. It was the Ontario Gilchrist. best day of the month for me." North Bend Scatts Pendleton Eugene State Representative Jeff Kruse Reedsport Biver Roseburg To help strengthen the Luruer "The joint Kiwanis and Albany Shady Cove connection between schools Key Club luncheon Dayville Amilty Gilverton and communities a local worked well." Sutherlin schools are opening their Annsville Springfield Willamina Estacada Dennis Szal, Principal Vale doors to the community." Huntmaten Mazama High School Brownsville Sublimity Fairview Bend Huntheaten Ten Mile I Lakeview Examiner Klamath Falls Klaniach Balls Collon Street Genera Gresham A drie Flaker Car Lakzolere Join us for Back to School Week 2003, Corvallis 2. Myssa Floardinan Entlage Grove Langent Prineville Reque River Chilonnin Hows Mulling P.HIME. Allver Lake Crestrell Turner Lake Osivego Terregionne Drosmed . Redmond Engene Klamate Falls Fall He Brayville Harmer