



FILED
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT ARKANSAS

DEC 23 2013

JAMES W. McCORMACK, CLERK
By: *M. Zeeb* DEP CLERK

December 23, 2013

Judge D. Price Marshall
United States District Court
Eastern District of Arkansas
Richard Sheppard Arnold United States Courthouse
600 West Capitol Avenue, Room A149
Little Rock, AR 72201

Attn: Desegregation Case – Proposed Settlement Agreement

Dear Judge Marshall:

The Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce and Fifty for the Future (the “Organizations”) are comprised of nearly 2,000 member businesses representing approximately 137,000 employees in Pulaski County. The Organizations, as their core mission, support economic development through the retention of existing jobs, creation of new jobs, and the investment of capital in the region.

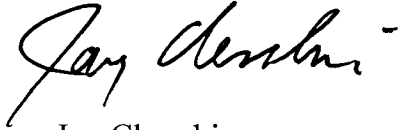
The Organizations recognize that long-term vibrant economic development is inextricably tied to a high quality public education system available to every student. Accordingly, the Organizations place the greatest priority toward the support of such a public education system that produces graduates well prepared to enroll in post-secondary education opportunities or enter the workforce.

The Proposed Settlement Agreement, which brings an end to over two decades of litigation in the Pulaski County school districts, is a very positive outcome for all stakeholders and is essential for establishing greater certainty for the continual development of a high quality public education system for all children. In addition, the eventual attainment of unitary status for the Pulaski County Special School District (“PCSSD”) is vital to our mission of shepherding long-term, sustainable economic vitality for our county, region, and state, and we vigorously support all good-faith efforts toward achieving that result.

While we have reservations about some aspects of the Proposed Settlement Agreement, particularly the provision in Section E.1. requiring the State to oppose the creation of any other school districts from PCSSD’s territory until PCSSD is

unitary, we do not want to allow the perfect to become the enemy of the good. Therefore, we are in support of the Proposed Settlement Agreement, as it brings an end to the litigation and represents a positive step forward for the students, school districts, our community, and the State.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jay Chesshir". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jay Chesshir
President & CEO
Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce
Fifty for the Future

CC: Attorney General Dustin McDaniel
CC: Joshua Intervenors, c/o John W. Walker
CC: Knight Intervenors, c/o Mark Burnette
CC: Dr. Tom Kimbrell, Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education
CC: Dr. Dexter Suggs, Superintendent, Little Rock School District
CC: Kelly Rodgers, Superintendent, North Little Rock School District
CC: Dr. Jerry Guess, Superintendent, Pulaski County Special School District
CC: Sen. Bill Sample, Senate Co-Chairman, Arkansas Legislative Council
CC: Rep. John Edwards, House Co-Chairman, Arkansas Legislative Council



**LITTLE ROCK REGIONAL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

One Chamber Plaza
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

HAND-DELIVERED

Judge D. Price Marshall
c/o James W. McCormack, Clerk of Court
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