



January 26, 2024

Superintendent James Gilbert  
Mountain Home School District 193  
470 North 3<sup>rd</sup> East  
Mountain Home, ID 83647

Dear Mr. Gilbert,

We are writing in support of Mountain Home School District 193 and the proposed Mountain Home School District K-6 school at Mountain Home Air Force Base to better support our military connected students. As community members who are passionate about our youth and their educational opportunities, we believe this project has the potential to make a significant impact in our community.

The challenge we are facing is building that is not able to match the quality education that is being provided at the Mountain Home Air Force Base. We have an incredible team of educators and administrators who care deeply about the children and families that attend, but with an outdated and limited facility, the students are limited as well by overcrowded classrooms and a lack of modern needs for the technology driven education they deserve. This is a pressing issue that demands immediate attention and action due to the needs of the Mountain Home Air Force Base mission, and their families receiving adequate and quality educational opportunities.

Fortunately, Congressman Mike Simpson's Community Project Funding has an innovative and effective solution to this problem. By partnering with Mountain Home School District, this fund could provide the needed solution so we can overcome this financial burden and proceed with a new facility for students on the Mountain Home Air Force Base.

The potential impact of this project is significant. As a Chamber of Commerce board, we are acutely aware of the economic impact the Mountain Home Air Force Base has on our community. By not having adequate and modern facilities for students, more families are relocating to other areas of the Treasure Valley and taking their economic impact with them. If we can overcome the financial barrier to provide a modern K-6 school on the Mountain Home Air Force Base, we can ensure a greater number of military members and their families will remain in our community.

We strongly believe that providing funding for a new K-6 School at Mountain Home Air Force Base would further support our economic growth and would directly impact our Chamber of Commerce members. We have full confidence in the Mountain Home School District to bring this new school to fruition and look forward to supporting their endeavor.

205 North 3rd East • Mountain Home, ID 83647

208-587-4334

[www.mountainhomechamber.com](http://www.mountainhomechamber.com)

[chamber@mountainhomechamber.com](mailto:chamber@mountainhomechamber.com)

**MATTHEW BUNDY**  
DISTRICT 8  
ELMORE, VALLEY, BOISE,  
& CUSTER COUNTIES



HOME ADDRESS  
1735 CASTLE WAY  
MOUNTAIN HOME, IDAHO 83647  
(208) 599-2379  
EMAIL: mbundy@house.idaho.gov

## House of Representatives State of Idaho

Congressman Mike Simpson  
2084 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

January 16, 2024

Re: Community Funding Project Grant  
Mountain Home School District K-6 school at Mountain Home Air Force Base

Congressman Mike Simpson,

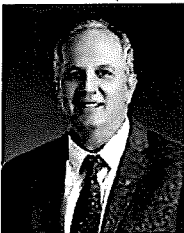
On behalf of the Idaho Legislative District 8, which encompasses Boise, Valley, Elmore, and Custer Counties, I am writing in the strongest, unequivocal support of support of the proposed Mountain Home School District project to build a K-6 school at Mountain Home Air Force Base.

As a current teacher in the Mountain Home School District, a retired member of the United States Air Force, and a parent of service members who served at Mountain Home Air Force Base, I know firsthand the importance of having a school on the base that meets modern standards. Providing military connected kids with a modern school will further ensure educational outcomes are on track to be met at all schools in Idaho.

Governor Little is an education driven Governor, making record investments into our educational funding, and pushing teacher pay in to the top ten of the nation. Providing this funding for the Mountain Home community falls in line with both mine and the Governor's priority of improving education in Idaho. My email is [mbundy@house.idaho.gov](mailto:mbundy@house.idaho.gov)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt".

**Representative Matthew Bundy**  
District 8 (Elmore, Boise, Valley, and Custer Counties)



208-599-2379 <https://legislature.idaho.gov/legislators/>

# Elmore County Board of Commissioners

Phone (208) 587-2129 Ext. 270

ELMORE COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
150 South 4th East Suite #3  
Mountain Home, Idaho 83647

Fax (208) 587-2159

**Albert Hofer**  
(208) 599-1620

**Crystal Rodgers**  
(208) 999-2206

**Franklin L. Corbus**  
(208) 599-1294

To: Congressman Mike Simpson

RE: Mountain Home School District Community Project Fund Grant

Date: January 19, 2024

Dear Congressman Simpson,

We are writing to support the Mountain Home School District's efforts to secure funding to build a new K-6 elementary school at Mountain Home Air Force Base. The Mountain Home School District is submitting a Community Projects Fund Grant through your office. The Elmore County Board of County Commissioners support the Mountain Home School District's efforts in this endeavor. A new Mountain Home School District elementary school located on the installation will provide an economic benefit to Elmore County by further securing the future of the installation. Mountain Home Air Force Base provides a tremendous financial benefit to Elmore County and Southern Idaho. The new school will also be a tremendous benefit to the military connected students and families living on the installation and the greater Mountain Home area.

Sincerely,

**ELMORE COUNTY**, a political subdivision of the State of Idaho

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Franklin L. Corbus, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Crystal Rodgers, Commissioner

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Albert Hofer, Commissioner



January 26, 2024

Dear Grant Committee,

The Mountain Home City Council is writing this letter in support of Mountain Home School District #193 (MHSD) and their application for the Community Funding Project Grant through Congressman Mike Simpson's office. As City Officials, we have had the pleasure of working alongside the Mountain Home School district to meet our community's needs.

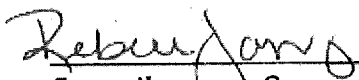
Through their work, MHSD has demonstrated a commitment to students and teachers. Their work aligns with the goals and objectives of the Community Funding Project Grant and they have the resources necessary to succeed in achieving their proposed project goals.

If awarded the Community Funding Project Grant, MHSD would become eligible to receive additional funds through the Public Schools on Military Installations Program (PSMI), for a new school at Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB). The PSMI program will provide up to 80% of the cost to design and construct a new facility, with a 20% match from Local Educational Agencies (LEA). The estimated cost of the facility is \$33 million, making the estimated "matching funds" for the LEA contribution is \$6.6 million. The MHSD is requesting your support for funding the LEA match of \$6.6 million.

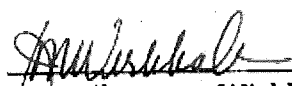
With this grant, MHSD will be able to further its mission and encourage a better learning environment at MHAFB. They have a clear vision for how the funding will be used and a solid plan to accomplish their objectives. We have full confidence in their ability to make significant strides in their work with the support of this grant.

This opportunity would significantly and positively impact the education of the MHSD children. However, the absence of the \$6.6M match could result in the loss of this opportunity with PSMI. By safeguarding and securing this grant, we would effectively demonstrate the State of Idaho's strong commitment to supporting the quality of life for its military members and their families. Additionally, it would signify a long-term strategic partnership between Mountain Home AFB, the Air Force, the Department of Defense, and the State of Idaho.

Sincerely,

  
Councilwoman Garvey

  
Councilman Brennan

  
Councilwoman Wirkkala

  
Councilman Harjo



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January 29, 2024

Rich Sykes  
Mayor, City of Mountain Home  
160 S. 3rd E.  
Mountain Home, ID 83647

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
1440 Longworth Bldg  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Simpson,

I am requesting your advocacy for the Mountain Home School District Community Project Fund application. As you are aware, the city has another quality-of-life improvement opportunity through the Office of Local Defense Communities Cooperation's (OLDCC) Public Schools on Military Installation Program (PSMI). The Mountain Home School District's (MHSD) Stephensen Elementary School was selected as a recipient for the PSMI program. On December 8th, 2017, a DoD contracting team assessed 159 school facilities throughout the country. Stephensen Elementary School was ranked in the top tier of needing serious maintenance, despite providing a fair learning environment.

As a result of inspections, multiple building systems were found to be beyond useful service life. A DoD contracting team determined that the best course of action is to construct an entirely new Stephensen Elementary School on the installation at an estimated cost of \$33 million. The PSMI program will provide up to 80% of the cost to design and construct the new facility. The Local Educational Agencies (LEA) are responsible for providing 20% of the cost. To rebuild the school the estimated "matching funds" for the LEA contribution is \$6.6 million.

The City of Mountain Home has directly benefitted from the partnership with the Department of Defense Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC). For the past 3 years, the city has been awarded three grants totaling over \$5M through the OLDCC's community investment programs. A \$427K awarded grant was used to improve five school interior aesthetics. A \$158K Installation Resilience Grant was awarded to study the City of Mountain Home's wastewater infrastructure. Lastly, the city was awarded \$4.5M to construct a needed water well to increase its water capacity to construct new housing development projects.

I am seeking your direct support and leadership for the federal government to provide the \$6.6M matching contribution funds along with OLDCC's \$26.4M to construct a brand-new \$33M elementary school. Education is a top priority for the State of Idaho and the Department of Defense, and your support would further prove the state's commitment.

Education thrives in a clean and well-built school. In "Healthy Schools are Clean, Dry, and Productive", Dr. Michael Berry states: "a school's interior climate, appearance, and cleanliness send either a positive or negative message to students, teachers, and staff. Emerging evidence suggests that

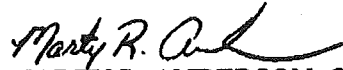
environmental conditions that create a sense of 'well-being' and send a 'caring message' contribute directly to positive attitudes and elevated performance as measured by fewer health complaints, improved student attendance, teacher retention, and higher test scores."

This is a tremendous opportunity to make a positive impact on the MHSD children's education, but without the \$6.6M match we could lose this chance. Ensuring this grant is not lost, not only demonstrates the State of Idaho values and supports its military members and their family's quality of life; but it is also committed to a long continuing strategic partnership with Mountain Home AFB, the Air Force, and the Department of Defense!

Sincerely,



RICH SYKES  
Mayor



MARTY R. ANDERSON, CMSgt, USAF (Ret)  
Military Liaison



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS 366TH FIGHTER WING (ACC)  
MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE IDAHO

22 January 2024

The Honorable Michael Simpson  
US House of Representatives  
Washington DC 20515

Colonel Michael Alfaró, USAF  
Commander, 366<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing  
366 Gunfighter Ave, Bldg 512, Suite 331  
Mountain Home AFB ID 83648

Dear Representative Simpson,

Thank you for considering the Mountain Home School District (MHSD) request for a Community Funding Project grant to help fund construction of a new school on Mountain Home AFB. Education is my number one quality of life priority for my airmen and their families, and I fully support MHSD's initiative to replace Stephenson Elementary School. The base provides 928 military-affiliated students, making up 25 percent of the district's student population, with over 300 students attending Stephenson Elementary School.

Since a 2017 assessment, Stephenson Elementary School has been a top DoD priority for new facility funding under the Public Schools on Military Installations (PSMI) initiative. An evaluation team rated the school as "failing" with a score of 43 out of 100 on the Building Condition Index and determined the best course of action was construction of a new facility. Under the PSMI program, the DoD will fund 80 percent of the cost for a new school with the local education activity providing the remaining 20 percent. Despite their best efforts, MHSD has struggled to obtain matching funds due to their limited budget and a difficult environment gaining voter support for a school bond. After six years of little movement, the Mountain Home community is in danger of being dropped from the PSMI funding list. It would be disheartening for our airmen and the community to lose this incredible opportunity.

A new school on Mountain Home AFB will do much more than simply improve our children's learning environment. Education is cited as a common reason an increasing number of Airmen choose to geographically separate from their families, or separate from the Air Force, rather than accept an assignment to Mountain Home AFB. Other families choose to live in the Boise metro area, and commute over two hours each day, to live in a school district with better facilities. The construction of a new school on Mountain Home AFB has additional benefits for both the installation and local community. By expanding to service grades K-6, it will provide additional job opportunities to the local populace, reduce transportation costs associated with busing, alleviate overcrowding at the middle school, and maximize reinvestment of district funds into other failing infrastructure. Thank you again for considering this grant and helping ensure our children's quality education remains a priority.

Sincerely

ALFARO.MICHAEL.CHR  
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MICHAEL C. ALFARO, Colonel, USAF

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**Governor Brad Little**

State Capitol :: Boise, Idaho 83720  
(208) 334-2100 :: gov.idaho.gov

January 22, 2024

Congressman Mike Simpson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2084 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

*Re: Community Funding Project Grant  
Mountain Home School District K-6 school at Mountain Home Air Force Base*

Dear Congressman Simpson,

On behalf of the State of Idaho, I am writing in strong support of the proposed Mountain Home School District project to build a K-6 school at Mountain Home Air Force Base.

Building a new K-6 school at Mountain Home Air Force Base will provide a much-needed modern school facility to benefit military students on the base. Mountain Home Air Force Base serves to keep our community safe, and as a large economic driver for the Mountain Home area, an up-to-date school facility is necessary for base operations. The school will serve a tremendous benefit to the Mountain Home community and will be an exceptional use of the Community Funding Project Grant.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brad Little".

Brad Little  
Governor of Idaho