June 14, 2013

Superintendent Chris Koch
Illinois State Board of Education
100 N. 1st Street
Springfield, IL 62777-0001

Dear Superintendent Koch:

We are writing this letter in support of the West Central School District #235. Recently, West Central submitted Ten Year Health Life Safety survey. They submitted the survey 2 years earlier than required in an effort to take advantage of the low bond prices in today’s market. West Central included in the survey a project to connect their north campus to the Dallas Rural Water District water supply line. The estimated cost of the project is $300,000. ISBE denied the request to include this project in the final approval of the Ten Year Survey. The ISBE architect denied the request because they felt the project is an “improvement” rather than a repair.

There is currently a well system that supplies the water to this campus. The water is corrosive, as a result, the district has had to replace pipes, drinking fountains, and dish washing equipment several times during the last 8 years. The well pump was also replaced within those 8 years. If the well was to fail, there is no backup water system. This water line would provide potable water and reduce the need for these costly repairs and replacements.

Perhaps of greater importance is the fact that should there be a fire on this campus, there is not enough water pressure from the well to fight a fire. Water would have to be trucked in and run through a portable water tank in order to fight a fire. This water line would provide the needed water supply.

We believe that this is a very worthy project and do not believe that it should be considered an “improvement”. The availability of potable water and the ability to fight a potential fire is just common sense. Your records will show that West Central is, quite possibly, one of the best stewards of taxpayer dollars in the State of Illinois. This project is further proof of their commitment to their students, faculty and taxpayers.

In closing, we strongly encourage you to reconsider this project for West Central School District #235. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jill Tracy
State Representative
94th District

Sincerely,

Norine K. Hammond
State Representative
93rd District