



April 8, 2024

TO: Members
Senate Education Finance Committee

FROM: Brad Lundell
Executive Director, Schools for Equity of Education

RE: Support for SF 4995 (Hauschild)

I am writing expressing Schools for Equity in Education's (SEE) support for SF 4995, Senator Grant Hauschild's bill that would provide greater property tax fairness and relief for residents in school districts with heavy concentrations of seasonal/recreational property. More than a dozen SEE members would benefit from the mechanism proposed in this bill and this effort is greatly appreciated.

Heavy concentrations of seasonal/recreational property can distort the property tax burden experienced by property taxpayers in the district and the remedy proposed here would provide needed relief. SEE has long proposed more wide-ranging improvements to the equalizing factors that govern the blend of aid and levy in operating referenda, but even with improvements to those equalizing factors the heavy concentration of season/recreational property in a number of school districts produces unique challenges in those districts. SF 4995 is a welcome entry to the discussion on how to remedy this particular disparity and promote property tax fairness.