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Buckheit, James

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From: Smith, Margaret [MSmith@ojrsd.com]**Sent:** Tuesday, June 03, 2008 7:44 AM

2008 JUN -5 PM 1:32

To: jbuckheit@state.pa.us**Cc:** Smith, MargaretINDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION**Subject:** Proposed Chapter 4 Regulations

State Board of Education
ATTN: James Buckheit, Executive Director
33 Market St.
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

Dear Mr. Buckheit:

I would like to express my objection to the Graduation Competency Assessment plan currently proposed. School districts are correct in awarding diplomas based on local requirements. Paper and pencil exams are imperfect measures of a student's knowledge and should decide if a student will graduate. Many students may demonstrate competency in other ways. Also what about special education students? How will they be affected? Special education students will be harmed if resources are diverted to help regular education students score well on the standardized tests. Although standardized tests are necessary, they should not decide a student's fate for graduating. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Margaret M. Smith

6/3/2008