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Harrisburg, PA 17109-1638
June 11, 2008

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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JUN 13 2008

PA. STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION

Mr. Jim Buckheit
Pennsylvania State Board of Education
333 Market Street, First Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17126

Dear Mr. Buckheit:

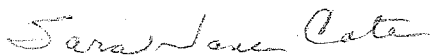
I have recently read information on the improved requirements, as proposed by your Board, which I support. I am especially pleased about the flexibility which allows local school districts the flexibility of selecting from multiple methods in which high school students earn their diplomas.

I understand the 2008-09 Budget presently being considered by the State Legislature proposes a new school funding formula to assist school districts to move toward adequate resource levels. I understand, also, the budget includes investments that are historic for our state that would include smaller class sizes, higher quality pre-kindergarten and full-day kindergarten slots, reform initiatives for high schools and ongoing professional development for school leaders and teachers.

It must be understood that to improve student achievement, we must provide more funding.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Sara Jane Cate

CC: Governor Edward Rendell
Senator Jeffrey Picolla
Representative Ronald S. Marsico