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Nov. 3, 2015 statement to State Board of Education Public Hearing on behalf of the Rural School Advocates of Iowa (RSAI), Dr. Bob Olson, Superintendent of the Clarion-Goldfield-Dows Community School District and Chair of the RSAI Leadership Group Robert.olson@rsaia.org (515)532-3423

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the proposed Assessment Rules, through which the state Board of Education initiates steps to implement Smarter Balanced Assessments as Iowa's state assessment for federal compliance.

The Rural School Advocates of Iowa, now counting 63 member school districts among us, are very concerned about opportunity and success for every student in Iowa, regardless of where they live.

I'm Dr. Robert Olson, Sup., Clarion-Goldfield-Dows Community School District and Chair of the RSAI Leadership Group. We appreciate the ability to talk to you today, showing our support for the Iowa core standards and an aligned assessment.

The attached resolution was approved unanimously by the RSAI leadership group, in support of an aligned assessment, which is summary states:

- Assessments, aligned to high expectations of what is being taught, are an important component of both accountability and understanding school improvement necessary for students to succeed
- The Assessment Task Force did a great job of thoroughly considering options and we support their recommendations
- RSAI supports the state Board of Education moving forward now, so schools will have sufficient time and support needed in order to make a change in assessments
- RSAI calls on the legislature to full and appropriate funding is allocated to support Iowa public schools in reaching high standards through improved instruction, sound assessment and the technology required to administer the assessments electronically.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our support for a quality, aligned assessment, delivered electronically, that is computer adaptive to narrow in on student skills and abilities.

Bob Olson, Chair, RSAI Leadership Group