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Dear Mr. Hubbell and Senator Hart,

The Board Presidents and Superintendents of the member districts of the UEN acknowledge and thank you for your support of extending the state penny for school infrastructure and property tax relief.

The state penny, known as the SAVE fund, is critical to our school districts' ongoing facility, equipment, safety and technology needs. As you mentioned in your Q&A with the Iowa Association of School Boards Legislative Resolutions Committee in September, Mr. Hubbell, constricted bonding capacity with an imminent expiration is challenging our districts' abilities to continue to provide the facilities our students need, designed for their learning. Senator Hart, we appreciate your previous support of the extension.

Recent state actions requiring a new state assessment, emphasis on computer coding coursework, online learning, and career and technical education efforts all demand resources in order to provide the technology, equipment and facilities students need. Secured access to our schools, facility upgrades and monitoring technology for student and staff safety also weigh on us as a heavy responsibility.

We support the bill with it's many compromises as written, agreed to by 95 Representatives during the 2018 Session ([HF 2481](#)) and suggest this legislation is a good starting point for discussion in 2019.

We respectfully ask for your leadership in moving a bill through the Iowa House and Senate, so that it gets to your desk for signature early in the Session. As of this writing, the economy appears to be experiencing healthy revenue growth. In the event that tax law changes and economic forces apply pressure down the road, this is one policy you can champion for Iowa public schools that does not require significant investment out of your FY 2020 budget.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership,

Dr. Lew Finch, Executive Director, Urban Education Network, and

- **Cedar Rapids** Board President Nancy Humbles and Superintendent Brad Buck
- **Council Bluffs** Board President David Coziahr and Superintendent Vickie Murillo
- **Davenport** Board President Ralph Johanson and Superintendent Arthur Tate
- **Des Moines** Board President Teree Caldwell Johnson and Superintendent Thomas Ahart
- **Dubuque** Board President Tami Ryan and Superintendent Stan Rheingans
- **Iowa City** Board President Janet Goodwin and Superintendent Stephen Murley
- **Sioux City** Board President Jeremy Saint and Superintendent Paul Gausman
- **Waterloo** Board President Shanlee McNally and Superintendent Jane Lindaman
- **Cedar Falls** Board President Joyce Coil and Superintendent Andy Pattee
- **College** Randy Bauer Board President and Superintendent Doug Wheeler
- **Fort Dodge** Board President Stuart Cochrane and Superintendent Jesse Ulrich
- **Linn-Mar** Board President Sondra Nelson and Superintendent Shannon Bisgard
- **Marshalltown** Board President Bea Niblock and Superintendent Theron Schutte
- **Mason City** Board President Jodi Draper and Superintendent Dave Versteeg
- **Muscatine** Board President Tammi Drawbaugh and Superintendent Jerry Riibe
- **Ottumwa** Board President Leisa Walker and Superintendent Nicole Kooiker
- **Southeast Polk** Board President Lori Slings and Superintendent Dirk Halupnik