From: <u>Josh Schmidt</u>

To: <u>Senate Finance Committee</u>

Subject: Restore full funding to the UA system!

Date: Monday, March 07, 2016 6:52:14 PM

I urge you to eliminate the proposed cuts to the UA system. The university is one of the main reasons that many of us live here. It is not just about jobs, but about our quality of life and investment in our state. Without a robust UA system, many of us would no longer want to live here. I would much prefer an income tax over a cut to the UA system. We are willing to pay an income tax! Cuts at the level proposed would likely result in permanent harm to the UA system, but not actually solve the fiscal problem the state is in. UA is critical to our state going forward and we must make some investments in our future. The university is already losing talented people in anticipation of egregious cuts to programs. The losses to our economy will be many fold more than what is saved on paper through these ridiculous cuts. Please restore FULL funding to the UA system.

Thank you.