



# RED BLUFF JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SUPERINTENDENT  
Dr. Kathleen A. Wheeler

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT  
Wesley G. Combes

August 7, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Lori Raineri and her firm, Government Financial Strategies, Inc. (GFS). Red Bluff Joint Union High School District first began doing business with Lori in 1989. At that time, she was able to secure a \$2 million loan from the Farmers Home Administration to enable us to construct a Performing Arts Center on our high school campus

Since that time, we have done multiple financings through GFS to purchase anything from computers and copiers to school busses and buildings. Their method of developing a list of our wants and dollars needed, and then putting it out to bid to get the lowest possible interest rates, has saved our district thousands of dollars over the last eighteen years. This became even more apparent when we needed to refinance our FHA loan and secure additional financing for some major construction projects beyond what the OPSC was funding. Last December, GFS was successful in securing a \$7.5 million COPs for us to complete our construction projects.

Additionally, for the last eight years, we have used the expertise of Jonathan Edwards of GFS to prepare our developer fee justification studies. These studies have been very thorough, and both Lori and Jonathan have made excellent presentations to our Board of Trustees to explain the necessity of the fees and why we need to keep up with the increases. This has sometimes been difficult when the majority of our Board has been either building contractors or someone with ties to the construction industry, thereby opposing the fees in general.

We have always considered Lori and her staff to be part of our team. They are committed to putting the needs of the District above anything else, and that has made it easy to work with them and think of them as one of us. I highly recommend Government Financial Strategies to any District that needs assistance with financing projects of any size, or to prepare their bi-annual developer fee study.

Sincerely,

Wesley G. Combes  
Assistant Superintendent.

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