



July 24, 2025

Mayor Bobby Cox
1018 Porter Avenue
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

Dear Mayor Cox,

I am writing on behalf of Ocean Springs School District and our Board of Trustees regarding an issue related to the 2024–2025 tax levy process. As you know, the district submitted its annual dollar request to the City of Ocean Springs, our tax levying authority, in accordance with Mississippi law. Unfortunately, a miscalculation occurred in the millage rate applied by the city, which resulted in the district receiving approximately \$430,000 less than what was legally requested and budgeted for the fiscal year. This shortfall has had a direct and material impact on the district's Debt Service.

In order to fulfill our obligations and ensure continuity in our debt service commitments, we are now in the process of securing a shortfall note. This corrective measure, while necessary, comes with additional costs—including legal fees, interest, and administrative charges—which the district would not have incurred had the original tax levy been calculated accurately.

Given that this error originated from the City's calculation process, the OSSD Board of Trustees has directed me to formally request that the City of Ocean Springs reimburse the district in full for all expenses, as allowed by MS Code and MS State Law, associated with the shortfall note. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Attorney fees
- Interest payments
- Bank or administrative service charges
- Any other related costs arising from the shortfall loan process

We appreciate the professionalism of you and your staff as we have been working through this miscalculation over the past year. We look forward to working with you and the City of Ocean Springs to resolve the matter swiftly and equitably.

Please let me know a convenient time to discuss this matter further. We are hopeful for a prompt resolution and look forward to our continued partnership between our two governing bodies.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Lindsey".

Michael Lindsey
Superintendent of Schools