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To Whom It May Concern:

Stillwater Public Schools has a long-standing and valued partnership with Turning Point Ranch. The special needs students who participate in the activities at Turning Point receive unbelievable benefits. These benefits range from physical strength and coordination to improved self-esteem and pride.

One of our students loves his time at Turning Point so much that his attendance has improved simply because he looks forward to coming to school on the days he has this activity. This student has a history of extremely poor attendance. However, he recently asked his parent to change an established appointment so that he would not miss his day to go to Turning Point. We would love to increase his time at Turning Point in an effort to improve attendance even further!

Another benefit of students attending Turning Point sessions is that it gives them an excellent opportunity to be out of the special education classroom. This is a wonderful community experience and a time for them to have fellowship with typically developing young people who are volunteering. The activities at Turning Point work well with IEP goals such as transition, following directions, and improving interpersonal relationships. We have many students who struggle with challenging behaviors. Participation at Turning Point lends to a significant improvement in most of these students' behaviors.

Turning Point Ranch also serves as an internship site for our Pathfinders Program. This program includes students aged 18 to 22 who have completed all state requirements for graduation but continue at Stillwater High School to focus on transition and employment skills. Students from this program are able to work as an intern at Turning Point performing entry-level job duties. This is a tremendous benefit for our young people who will soon enter the adult world.

Sincerely,

Melisa D. Kifer  
Stillwater Public Schools  
Director of Special Services

**STILLWATER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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