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**BEFORE THE:** Ways and Means Capital Construction Sub  
**REGARDING:** SB 447 - K-12 Facilities Matching Funds  
**BY:** Dave Krumbein, OSBA President  
**DATE:** 5-1-15

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Co-Chair Girod and Co-Chair Read, my name is Dave Krumbein. I am a member of the Pendleton School Board and the President of the Oregon School Boards Association. I am here to share our support, and the strong support of other K-12 education groups, for Senate Bill 447.

**Legislative Task Force Recommends Program to Address School Facilities Needs**

Oregon's K-12 school buildings reflect a national pattern of under-investment: crumbling buildings, obsolete systems, and deteriorating site conditions. School bonds passed by local voters are not keeping pace, and many districts have had no success with local voters at all. In recent years, more than one-third of the capital dollars requested by school districts have been rejected. During tight budget times, too many districts have added to their deferred maintenance lists.

During the last legislative interim, the Task Force on School Capital Improvement and Planning issued a report concluding that state matching dollars can provide a key incentive for local communities to make capital investments in their schools. Our key recommendations to the 2015 Legislature are included in Senate Bill 447:

- Authorizing \$125 million in new XI-P state general obligation bonds for K-12 matching grants in 2015-17. Grants would range from \$4 million to \$8 million dollars;
- Establishing and funding an Office of School Facilities at the Oregon Department of Education as a resource for local school districts;
- Providing technical assistance and small grants to assess district needs, support long-term capital programs and inform statewide capital planning; and
- Launching the Oregon School Facilities Database to start building a repository of data for local district and statewide capital planning information.

**Education Community United in Support for Senate Bill 447:**

Senate Bill 447 is endorsed by OEA, COSA, OSEA, OSBA, the Oregon Small Schools Association, Stand for Children and the Oregon PTA. These organization understand that state matching dollars can provide a key incentive to help convince local communities to make major, needed investments in their school buildings.

**What will districts be able to use the money for? (Just a few examples)**

- Building or retrofitting instructional space for full-day kindergarten. We know that many districts will need to do this with the switch to full day kindergarten.
- Building or retrofitting space available for physical education. There is ample data that shows districts will need to increase space for the PE mandate that begins in 2017.
- Tsunami, seismic and earthquake upgrades and retrofits. There are literally dozens of shovel-ready projects that have applied for state support, but there is not enough funding available.
- Projects to address health hazards like mold, lead paint and asbestos, which students across Oregon are exposed to every day.
- Building safety upgrades.
- Deferred maintenance projects.
- New buildings and remodels.
- Computer labs and technology infrastructure upgrades.

**Every Student Deserves a Quality School Facility**

Oregon's students deserve to go to school in healthy environments, which includes safe, modern buildings in good working condition and free from preventable health hazards. OSBA believes that the state has a shared responsibility to provide a quality education in a quality facility.

**Educational and Economic Benefits**

Increased capital investments also mean new construction jobs and other employment opportunities in communities across Oregon that are still struggling with the aftermath of the latest recession. Modern, well-maintained public school buildings and facilities may also make the difference to a company looking to locate or expand their operations in Oregon.

I urge your support for SB 447 and would be happy to answer any questions.