



April 30, 2015

To Ways and Means Legislative Sub-Committee:

Nearly all of Portland Public School (PPS) buildings were constructed prior to knowledge of seismic risk in the Pacific Northwest, as well as building codes that govern structural standards to limit damage, injury and loss of life. Six years ago, structural engineers estimated that it would cost nearly half a billion dollars to seismically retrofit all PPS buildings. With what we have learned as a result of recent and ongoing projects, this estimated cost would be exponentially larger.

Since 2009, the SRGP has become a promising symbol of tackling Oregon's school resiliency through state funding. There is now hope that with strong leadership, ample planning and additional funding, Oregon schools have a means to strengthen schools for earthquake preparedness.

We are very appreciative of our prior SRGP award as well as the most recent award, contributing to the longevity, resiliency and safety of two beloved, historical neighborhood schools. The Alameda School award leveraged voter-approved school construction bond work to enable a complete seismic retrofit. The recent Franklin High School award will support the seismic retrofit that is an important part of a voter-approved school bond modernization. Many of our schools full retrofit cost estimates exceed the grant maximum award of \$1.5 million; therefore, it is necessary to leverage other funding sources.

PPS strives to provide the best and safest learning environments possible for our students. While we have been taking incremental steps to strengthen school buildings for nearly 20 years, there is much left to do. We know that fully retrofitting a school building is the most effective way to reduce risk and increase safety in the event of an earthquake. These efforts need proper planning, resources and most importantly, adequate funding.

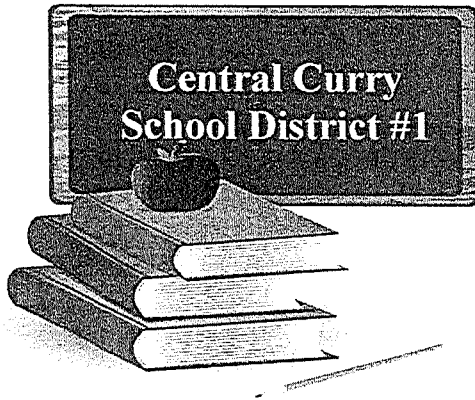
Our Portland communities place great value on the effort and investment of strengthening school buildings. PPS parents consistently voice their concern for their children's safety and the condition of the buildings in which they spend the majority of their day. Our community is investing in updating schools to become modern, accessible, 21st century community centered schools – and so it becomes imperative to make our schools as safe as possible.

The Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program is necessary to increase the seismic safety of all Oregon schools. We urge you to consider the planning and resilience that is needed to sustain schools and protect students. All efforts help to mitigate risk, reduce possibilities of hazards and increase the chance of keeping students safe. We do not know when disaster will strike, but we can do our best to improving school resilience and protect our children and our children's future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jen Sohm".

Jen Sohm, Senior Design Quality Manager
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April 28, 2015

Dear members of the Oregon Ways and Means Sub-Committee,

I am writing this letter to share with you our appreciation of receiving the Seismic Rehabilitation Infrastructure Grant that Central Curry School District #1 was recently awarded for Riley Creek Elementary School.

A dedicated group of volunteers in the district assisted the administration last summer in writing and applying for this Grant for both Gold Beach High School and Riley Creek Elementary School. Riley Creek is the district's only elementary school and houses approximately 320 students in grades K-8 along with an outside agency working with pre school students. Riley Creek has many expansive glass panels in the interior of the building and a covered shelter area where the students play and take physical education classes. From our engineer's survey it was determined that in the event of any sizeable seismic event, there was a great likelihood that these areas would fail and trap or cause injury or death to the building's inhabitants. This grant will provide us the opportunity to retrofit the structural components of the school to make it a safer place. Without this funding, this would not have been possible.

As stated above, we applied for the same grant for our high school located in Gold Beach. This building also faces the same structural issues and we hope that funds will be included in the next biennium budget to assist districts such as ours to retrofit building and make them safer for all who work and learn in them. Our children are our future and we appreciate your commitment to helping us and all school districts in Oregon retrofitting and making our building safer with this funding.

Thank you for all you have done and will continue to do in the future.

Sincerely,

Dennis Johnson
Superintendent of Schools
Central Curry School District #1



**Klamath Falls
City Schools**

100% Graduation is Our Expectation!

April 21, 2015

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am the superintendent of the Klamath Falls City Schools. Five of our six school buildings were built before 1930. While they are well maintained, they were not built to withstand the effects of a major earthquake. As a result, all five are in the high-risk category for seismic catastrophe. Adding to our dilemma is the inability of our community to build new school facilities. The poverty of our area has increased dramatically since 2008 making it even less likely they will support the construction of new facilities in the foreseeable future.

Fortunately, our district has been awarded two seismic grants from the state during the last five years. This has allowed us to develop a solid auditorium structure at our oldest building in our poorest community neighborhood, Mills Elementary School. This will go a long way toward bringing a safe environment to that area in case of seismic activity. It will also allow critical medical services and other life-saving support to be available in that very needy area should we be unfortunate enough to have earthquake activity as occurred in Klamath Falls in the 1990's.

The second grant is to create a sound structure in our high school gym. Similar to the Mills' auditorium, this will provide a safe structure in a poor neighborhood in case of seismic destruction.

An added benefit of the construction work is making more aesthetically pleasing buildings as part of the process. Another advantage has been a stimulus to our local economy that this construction activity provides.

Neither of these projects could have been done without the grant funding. We are greatly appreciative to the legislature for providing the seismic retrofit funding that has helped create a safer community in Klamath Falls. We encourage you to continue the support of such projects in the future.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Hillyer".

Paul Hillyer, Ph.D.

Superintendent of the Klamath Falls City Schools