



**GINNY BURDICK
SENATE MAJORITY LEADER**

DATE: March 28, 2017
TO: Senator Brian Boquist, Chair
Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness
FROM: Senate Majority Leader Ginny Burdick
SUBJECT: Senate Bill 707

Members of the committee, for the record, my name is Ginny Burdick. I serve as the State Senator for District 18, which includes the city of Tigard and portions of Southwest Portland.

I'm here today to discuss Senate Bill 707. This bill authorizes the issuance of Article XI-Q general obligation bonds to finance seismic and life safety improvements to the State Capitol Building and grounds for the 2017-19 and 2019-21 biennia. Senate Bill 707 ensures long-term preservation and security for the Oregon State Capitol Building by advancing the Oregon State Capitol Master Plan.

It has been over a decade since the Public Commission on the Oregon Legislature recognized the need for seismic and life safety improvements to the Capitol Building. The improvements outlined in the Master Plan are a matter of public safety. Over 200,000 people visit the Capitol each year including over 35,000 school children. Providing the means for these seismic upgrades will help protect thousands Oregonians who work within and visit the Capitol every year.

The legislature is responsible for the Capitol's maintenance. Therefore, we have an urgent responsibility to move this vital project forward.

I strongly urge your support for Senate Bill 707.

