



**COALITION OF
OREGON SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATORS**

Coalition of Oregon School Administrators
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TO: Senate Education Committee
FR: Morgan Allen, COSA
RE: Testimony in support of Senate Bill 55

On behalf of the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators and our 2500 members across Oregon, we urge your support for Senate Bill 55. This legislation will provide funding for ongoing assessments of school facilities across Oregon on a five-year cycle.

Since 2015, the Oregon Legislature has invested about \$750 million dollars in the Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching Program (OSCIM), Seismic Rehabilitation Grants for K-12 schools, and other initiatives in the Office of School Facilities housed at the Oregon Department of Education. While most of the money has been spent on brick and mortar construction and improvements, there have been critical programs to test water for lead and provide resources to districts to plan for facility improvements implemented under the stewardship of ODE and the Office.

Prior to the Great Recession, the Legislature authorized and funded an assessment similar to the one envisioned by SB 55. Funding was eliminated due to budget concerns and constraints right before the contract for the work was completed and the opportunity was lost. It is past time for Oregon to make good on this work and better understand the state of school facilities in Oregon so that investments can be targeted equitably in our communities.

The Office of School Facilities at the Oregon Department of Education is a model for collaboration with K-12 stakeholders and the staff commitment to ensure that all students have high quality school facilities is unmatched.

We urge your support for SB 55.