



May 5, 2023

TO: Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Capital Construction FR: Richard Donovan on behalf of OSBA and Morgan Allen on behalf of COSA

RE: HB 5030, sec. 8

Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey and members of the committee:

On behalf of the Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) and the Coalition of Oregon School Administrators (COSA), we write to express support for section 8 of HB 5030.

House Bill 5030 is a bill modify and authorize various bonding expenditures across Oregon. It contains a number of provisions to bond for various construction projects, including but not limited to housing investments, levee maintenance, and watershed preservation.

One of those investments, contained within section eight of the bill, is a \$15 million investment in the Connecting Oregon Schools Fund. This money will be dedicated to providing matching funds for federal moneys received by school districts in order to increase broadband access to eligible schools.

School districts across Oregon will benefit from this investment. With increased access to high-speed broadband internet, students across Oregon are able to expand learning beyond the confines of the physical classroom and traditional school day. Broadband gives access to better information, and also enable customized learning opportunities for students, especially in communities in Oregon that have experienced a systemic lack of investment in their local infrastructure and may not otherwise have meaningful access to broadband internet available.

Thank you for your investment in Oregon's students and schools.

Richard Donovan Legislative Services Specialist Oregon School Boards Association rdonovan@osba.com Morgan Allen
Deputy Executive Director
Coalition of Oregon School Administrators
morgan@cosa.k12.or.us