



February 16, 2024

Chairs Girod and Holvey and members of the committee-

As members of the Gervais Education Association, we stand united in our support for the proposed infrastructure bond, which seeks to address the critical state of our community's school buildings. This proposal, which envisions matching a community bond, is a critical step towards the revitalization of our educational facilities. These facilities are in a dire state, a situation that has persisted not due to a lack of will but because of insufficient funds to undertake necessary repairs and improvements.

The proposed match funding goes beyond a mere financial investment in physical structures. It represents a profound commitment to the future of our children and the broader vision of our community's prosperity. We currently serve 900 students, which are 84% students of color and receive 100% free lunch. An investment in this proposal is a critical investment in our small rural community.

This bond represents a call to action for all who believe in the transformative power of education. By supporting this initiative, we seize an opportunity to have a lasting positive impact on the lives of countless students and to pave the way for a brighter, more equitable future. This effort is a testament to our collective determination to address the pressing needs of today while investing in the promise of tomorrow.

We, the undersigned members of the Gervais Education Association, urge you to join us and the Oregon Education Association in supporting this essential infrastructure proposal. Together, we can reverse years of neglect and chart a new course for our schools—one that leads to excellence, equity, and empowerment for every student in our community.

Thank you for considering this crucial proposal. The decisions we make today will shape the future of our children, our educators, and our community. Let us choose to invest in a legacy of education, opportunity, and hope.

Sincerely,

The educators of the GEA