



*From the Offices of Majority Leader Bowman, Senator Girod,
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Oregon Seeks to Acquire Abiqua Falls to Maintain Long Term Public Access, Continue Legacy of Stewardship

The bipartisan, bicameral action responds to public concern over Abiqua Falls potentially being privatized, ensuring access for all Oregonians

SALEM, Ore. - The Joint Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Capitol Construction has released its capital construction budget bills, which include funding that authorizes the state to explore and initiate the potential acquisition of Abiqua Falls, and pursue permanent public ownership of one of Oregon's most treasured natural landmarks. The plan for public ownership of Abiqua Falls is championed by Democrats and Republicans in both the House and the Senate.

Located near Scotts Mills in Marion County, Abiqua Falls is renowned for its dramatic 92-foot waterfall cascading over columnar basalt cliffs into a pristine pool below. Earlier this February, The Abbey Foundation of Oregon, a supporting organization of Mount Angel Abbey and Seminary, listed the property sale after over 100 years of stewardship.

The bond allocation will allow the state to pursue purchasing the property and placing it under public ownership and management, ensuring public access for generations to come.

"Today, we are making sure that our children and grandchildren inherit not just stories about Abiqua Falls, but the ability to stand there themselves," **said House Majority Leader Bowman (D - Tigard, Metzger, S. Beaverton)**. "This place should belong to all of us. Oregon owes a debt of gratitude to the Abbey Foundation for their century of stewardship, and their partnership in ensuring public access forever."

“Following the example set by the late Governor Tom McCall, Oregon is pledging that Abiqua Falls will continue to be protected and accessible for generations to come. It is the Oregon Way,” **said Senator Girod, Co-Chair of the Capital Construction Committee (R -Silverton).**

The effort to bring Abiqua Falls into public ownership has been strongly supported by the Abbey Foundation of Oregon, which has advocated for long-term stewardship of the property and responsible conservation of its surrounding landscape.

“It is with deep gratitude and hope for the future that the Abbey Foundation of Oregon entrusts the stewardship and legacy of Abiqua Falls to the state of Oregon,” **said Dr. Amanda Staggborg, Director of Communications for Mount Angel Abbey.** “The beauty of Abiqua Falls will be enjoyed by generations of Oregonians and all those who love Oregon’s natural wonders.”

The use of General Obligation bonds through the Capitol Construction Bill reflects Oregon’s commitment to investing in public assets that provide lasting value.

“The acquisition of the Abiqua Falls property ensures that it will be in the public domain into the future for all to enjoy. This will be a valuable resource and a treasure for the enjoyment of generations to come,” **said Rep. Lewis (R - Silverton).** “I am grateful for the efforts of those who have worked diligently to bring this acquisition to fruition.”

The initial steps of the acquisition process will move forward in coordination with state agencies and local partners, with additional details about management and public access to be announced.

The Capital Construction bills including [SB 5701](#) will go to the House and Senate for final votes later this week.

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