



PRESS RELEASE

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East County Legislators Deliver on Priorities in 2015 Session

Funding for critical projects by Legislature will benefit local community's economy

SALEM—With the legislature adjourned for the year, lawmakers from East County took the opportunity to highlight key successes of the 2015 session for the communities they represent.

Bonding projects championed by East County legislators include:

- \$8 million for the Technology Innovation Center at Mt. Hood Community College
- \$1 million for the Open Meadow / Open School alternative school
- \$1 million for the Rockwood Boys and Girls Club

The \$8 million in bond funding for the Mt. Hood Community College Technology Innovation Center will help replace an aging Industrial Technology facility with space for applied technologies, including automotive, machine tool, and emerging technologies.

“This is an important investment that will better support students on their pathway to a career,” said Rep. Chris Gorsek (D-Troutdale).

Another \$2 million in bond funding will go towards the construction of a new Rockwood Boys & Girls Club, as well as the Open Meadow School, which serves at-risk middle and high school students. This joint campus will efficiently share resources and allow high-risk students an easy transition to safe after-school programming.

“In the law enforcement and education communities, we know that the most effective programs in promoting positive life-outcomes for youth are administered in their community. This bond funding is a transformational investment in this community,” said Rep. Carla Piluso (D-Gresham).

“In this session, we made decisions that will improve the lives of all families in East County,” adds Rep. Gorsek. “We invested in our schools and the critical services that families depend on, we invested in key infrastructure projects, and we made sure that working families are able to get ahead.”

The 2015 legislature passed the earliest K-12 budget in at least a quarter century, providing a stable budget for most school districts and funding all-day kindergarten for every child in the state. The \$7.4 billion K-12 budget also boosts support for high-needs students and English Language Learners, while also making sure that every low-income kid has a chance to eat lunch.

Rep. Piluso and Rep. Gorsek also supported statewide projects that will impact East County:

- More than \$300 million for construction projects at Oregon universities and community colleges
- \$300 million to make seismic upgrades and other improvements to Oregon schools
- \$198 million for cancer research at Oregon Health and Sciences University, bringing the total raised for the Knight Cancer Challenge to \$1 billion
- \$90 million for transportation projects statewide
- \$30 million to seismically upgrade emergency services buildings across the state

“The 2015 session is a turning point for families in our community,” says Rep. Piluso. “The investments we’ve made will help ensure that all Oregonians have a better, fairer shot at a prosperous future.”

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