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\$50.3 Million in Seismic Rehabilitation Grants Awarded to Oregon Schools

Only 41 of 1,000 High-Risk School Buildings Will Be Upgraded

Salem, Ore. - Today, Business Oregon's Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Committee approved \$50.3 million in critical seismic upgrades for Oregon schools. Of 107 schools applying for seismic upgrades from Business Oregon, 41 projects were approved totaling \$50.3 million.

"These 41 projects are critical for keeping Oregon students safe in case of an earthquake," said Senate Republican Leader Ted Ferrioli (R-John Day). "While we are pleased with this initial \$50.3 million investment, children in 1,000 Oregon school buildings, including the 66 schools that applied but were not approved for seismic grants today, are still at risk."

Over 1,000 schools across the state have a 'high' risk rating for their chance of collapse during the next major earthquake, according to the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries. In 2015, several Senate Republicans sponsored \$175 million in bonds to seismically retrofit Oregon schools (SB 447).

"While we're pleased these 41 schools are going to get the seismic upgrades they desperately need, the Legislature must do much more to make all 1,000 of these schools safe for our kids," said Ferrioli. "We're spending \$30 million this year to upgrade the Capitol building in addition to the hundreds of millions proposed to completely remodel the Capitol. What

message are we sending Oregon families when we won't put the safety of all school children first?"

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