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Senate Republicans Call to Fund Critical Seismic Upgrades to Schools Before Remodeling Capitol Building

Over 1,000 Oregon Schools At Risk Of Collapse During Next Earthquake

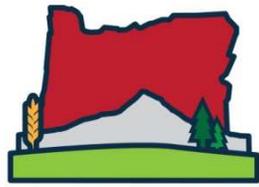
Salem, OR - Hundreds of thousands of children across Oregon could be at risk should their school collapse the next time a large earthquake hits. The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries released a list of every Oregon school and its seismic risk, revealing the shocking statistic that children in 275 schools with a 'very high' seismic risk rating and 745 schools with a 'high' seismic risk rating are in danger today.

Senate Republicans sent a letter to Senate President Peter Courtney last month asking the legislature to prioritize bonding for critical seismic upgrades to Oregon schools before considering authorization of nearly \$200 million to remodel the Oregon Capitol in 2015-17 and another \$150 million in the 2017-19 biennium.

"No priority, including upgrading the Capitol, is higher than keeping our children safe," said Senate Ted Ferrioli (R-John Day). "The current proposal for seismic bonding for schools will only make 133 of over one thousand at-risk schools safe for our kids. We should defer remodeling the Capitol building until we know every Oregon student is safe in their school."

In addition to the 1020 Oregon schools rated 'high' or 'very high' for their risk of collapsing during an earthquake, 101 Community College buildings, 80 public safety buildings, 31 hospitals, and 131 fire stations were also rated 'high' or 'very high.'

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