



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission

Oregon Emergency Management

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Representative John Lively, Chair
House Committee on Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness
900 Court Street NE, Room 431
Salem, Oregon 97301

Honorable Chair Lively,

In testifying today on the seismic upgrades to schools and emergency response structures, the Oregon Seismic Safety Policy Advisory Commission (OSSPAC) fully supports increasing the level of funding to support the Seismic Rehabilitation Grant Program (SRGP). OSSPAC has recommended a funding increase to \$200 million for this program for a number of years and supports this level similar to that recommended by Senate President Peter Courtney and by the Oregon Resilience Task Force.

We ask that no matter what level of funding increase that the distribution of these funds be appropriately shared between schools and emergency response facilities and hospitals based on the expert judgement of the Infrastructure Finance Authority and the SRGP Advisory Committee. We urge that this funding increase be sustained to help meet the original intent and timeline approved by Oregon voters in 2002.

We support the ability of the SRGP Advisory Committee to make informed decisions regarding updating the Administrative Rules when considering increasing the project cap from the current \$1.5 million, if increased funding is approved.

OSSPAC also supports the attempt to administer the SRGP to best provide geographical distribution across the state and to help rural communities that may have concentrations of seismic risk and with minimal technical capacity to participate. We support higher seismic retrofit standards for schools to insure operability after the earthquake so that these facilities remain in service for their communities.

And finally, OSSPAC continues to promote the ability for the few remaining coastal schools that are inside the tsunami inundation line to have some ability to benefit from this state-wide program to help communities to relocate their students outside of the tsunami hazard zone.

Thank you for your continued work to improve Oregon's seismic resilience.

Sincerely,

Jay Wilson, Chair