COURTNEY NERON STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 26



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony in Support of <u>HB 3360</u>

March 17, 2025

Vice Chair McIntire, Vice Chair Dobson and Members of the Committee,

I write to express my strong support for HB 3360 and the vital investment it makes in the future of our public school infrastructure. **Directing the corporate kicker to the School Facility Improvement Fund, helps address Oregon's growing need for school facilities funding.** Deferred and ongoing maintenance, essential construction and renovation projects, and infrastructure improvements for safety and health, are all worthwhile of our focus.

Oregon communities value strong schools that provide **safe**, **accessible**, **and innovative learning environments** for students. However, outdated infrastructure and overcrowded classrooms present significant barriers to our educational goals. HB 3360 offers a pathway to address these challenges directly.

The proposed changes to the corporate income and excise tax kicker ensure that these excess revenues are put to work for critical public school projects, focusing on the districts that need it most. The bill establishes clear eligibility criteria, **prioritizing districts that have made efforts to secure local funding through general obligation bonds while also ensuring that school systems with limited reserves get the support they need.** This approach ensures fairness and prioritizes the districts most in need of assistance.

By targeting these funds (that are constitutionally mandated to be additive funding for schools when available) to public school facilities, we recommit Oregon to the physical condition of our schools and enhance the learning experiences of thousands of Oregon students. Investments in school facilities contribute to a stronger economy through job creation, are shown to improve learning outcomes, and ensure that every student has access to a safe and welcoming environment where they can thrive.

The broad **support for this bill across the state underscores how critical this funding is to Oregon's education system**. I urge you to support HB 3360 and ensure that much-needed resources are available to districts for facilities improvements across our state.

Sincerely,

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