

Submitter: Lonnie Slapinski

On behalf of: Ukiah School District

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction

Measure, Appointment or SB5531

My name is Lonnie Slapinski. I am a History and Physical Education teacher at Ukiah School located in Ukiah, Oregon. I am writing to express strong support for SB 5531, which would provide critical funding to institutions in rural communities like our School in Ukiah.

Our local school, a 100-year-old building that has served generations of Ukiah students, is in urgent need of repairs and modernization. Last summer's devastating fires compounded long-standing infrastructure challenges, leaving our already-vulnerable facility in even more disrepair. Without investment, we risk losing not only a historic educational institution but also a vital cornerstone of our rural community. Furthermore, The next closest school to ours is in Pilot Rock which is almost an hour away, losing this institution would create an unnecessary burden for our families to continue giving their kids an education.

SB 5531 represents hope for our town. With this grant, we will be able to address major safety and infrastructure needs including asbestos removal, concrete repairs, and essential upgrades to our water lines. These improvements are not just about modernization — they are necessary for the health and safety of our students, teachers, and staff.

Our small community is resilient, but we need support from the state to continue providing a safe and functional learning environment for our children. We urge you to pass SB 5531 and help restore and protect schools like ours across Oregon so we can continue to give Ukiah students a quality and safe education.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to rural communities.

Sincerely,

Lonnie Slapinski