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LD 1087

The recent release of preliminary findings of the study of the state's public school structures supports what most of us have known for years: a vast majority of our public schools are currently or shortly will be in need of replacement. The state must meet this crisis by rethinking how it helps school districts fund these necessary capital investments.

I am in strenuous support of LD 1087. Instead of fully funding perhaps seven schools, this partial funding approach could support double or triple that number of new school buildings. Speaking as the former Cape Elizabeth School Board Chair and long-time member and as a current Town Councilor, this bill would have an incredibly positive impact on our ability to address our aging, failing school infrastructure. A show of support from the state, even at 25% of the project cost, would reduce the bond amount to be paid by our townspeople and help get this much needed facilities project across the finish line.

I understand that different school districts have different needs and differing abilities to fund those needs. However, every town should have skin in the game and every town should have some level of financial support from the state for these critical building needs.