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To: Co-Chair Monroe and Co-Chair Komp and Members of the Joint Ways and Means Education Subcommittee

From: Michael J. Schell, Director of Athletics

Subject: Sports Lottery Fund

Date: March 27, 2015

Dear Co-Chair Komp, Co- Chair Monroe, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to urge you to support a full appropriation of Sports Lottery Fund that benefits all universities with non-revenue sports programs. Especially the technical and regional universities.. These funds are critical to our program as they provide around 14% of our overall budget. The dollars provided through the Sports Lottery support nearly 300 student-athletes in some way. And I do mean STUDENT-athletes. Last year the combination of all student-athletes that were certified as eligible at OIT combined for a 3.22 GPA. You will not find our true wins in the sports section of a news paper. They are better measured in June when we watch students walk to receive their degrees.

While everything a student learns in the classroom is extremely important, life long lessons learned through these activities have a direct relationship to the work places these young people will soon be a part of. Things such as time management, teamwork, adversity, working under pressure, communications and leadership skills are only a few of these skills.

If the Sports Lottery were to be de-funded I can confirm that at the regional university level we simply do not garner the fan or media attention to make up these funds through marketing. Nor are we likely to be able to obtain these dollars from charitable sources. All of us strive to maximize money coming from these sources. The likely outcome would be a major reduction in programs and access for students.

I would be happy to allocate the time to meet with you and the members of the committee to testify further or answer any questions you might have.

Again I urge you to support the full 1% of lottery funds for university athletic programs, as is required in statute.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Schell".

Michael J. Schell
Director of Athletics
Oregon Institute of Technology

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