



Carla C. Piluso
State Representative, House District 50
900 Court St. NE, H-491, Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1450
rep.carlapiluso@oregonlegislature.gov

April 18, 2019

RE: House Bill 5030—Gradin Sports Park Project

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and members of the committee:

I am writing in enthusiastic support of the City of Gresham's bond financing request for the Gradin Community Sports Park Phase II.

Gradin is an invaluable community resource in the heart of Gresham. Its soccer and baseball fields are some of the best-used facilities in the city: nearly 30,000 people played there over the course of 2018.

But Gradin is not working to its full potential. It is currently home to two grass soccer fields and two grass baseball/softball fields, which are heavily used to the point of overflowing. The park also lacks the restroom facilities and parking infrastructure to effectively serve the public.

Phase II will construct two additional turf soccer fields and two more turf baseball/softball fields, along with restrooms, concession facilities, and an all-abilities playground. This would be in addition to the significant investments the City has already made in Gradin. In 2008, the City contributed \$4.1 million to bring the existing soccer and softball fields to the park.

These are important investments in the Gresham community. Some 8.7 million people live within 200 miles of the park. About 20% of Gresham residents live below the poverty line, and our residents are among the most overweight in the region on average—infrastructure that keeps our community moving will have a meaningful impact. I am also told that this project represents an opportunity for economic development in Gresham if these fields become a draw to soccer tournaments and other youth sports.

The Gradin Sports Park project represents an opportunity for the State to invest in a vibrant community that has struggled with poverty and disinvestment for too long. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carla C. Piluso
Oregon State Representative, House District 50