

Good Afternoon Co-chairs and the members of the community, My name is Jesse Cuomo Parks and Recreation Manager and Covid-19 Response Manager for the City of Woodburn. I am here to speak about proposed Woodburn community improvement projects supported by Representative Teresa Alonso Leon

The City of Woodburn is one of the most diverse community in the state with a large population of community members from the Latinx, Russian Slavic and senior populations. The Woodburn community has a population of more than 26,000 with a demographic make-up of more than 56% Latinx with more than 23% of the population within the poverty income levels, substantially higher than that of the State average of 13.2%.

The BIPOC community has historically been underserved and as we know this has been even more highlighted due to the current Covid-19 Pandemic.

The Woodburn Community Center has been a dream project of the City of Woodburn and its residents for over 10 years but due to the financial downturn and other financial barriers of the community, this project has remained a dream. The Woodburn Community Center project would expand the existing aquatic center into a 76,000 sq. ft. full service multi-cultural community center. The project will include amenities, such as gymnasiums, walk/jog track, fitness and cardio center, meeting and event spaces as well as senior programming spaces, as well as including community partners such as Meals on Wheels in addition to commercial kitchen and aquatic improvements, including a warm water recreation pool.

This space is one that will aid us in closing the health disparity gap we see in the Latinx and Russian Slavic Community. Continuing to assist our hardworking and thriving community with a facility that they deserve. We see this space as one that is adaptable and as diverse as our community. One that provides space to create memories with family and creates a sense of place for the diverse community we serve in Woodburn and North Marion County. This funding would be critical the success of this project.

Lastly, the Legion Park Turf Field project and Butteville/219 intersection improvement project would have a substantial positive economic impact for the Woodburn community.

Thank you for your consideration of these projects and the monumental impact it would have on our community.