

To whom it may concern.

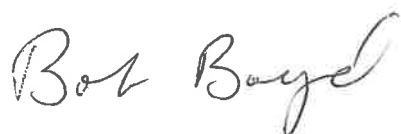
My name is Bob Boyd and I am a lifelong resident of Ontario. Since I was born in Ontario, taught school and raised a family here, I feel qualified to provide written testimony in support of how HB-2410 would help enrich our community.

Ontario of today is not the same Ontario of my youth or what it was twenty or so years ago. The Ontario of the past was a crown jewel for Eastern Oregon and the state as a whole. It had a golf course, a city pool and Rec center along with many other business and recreational opportunities. Today's Ontario is nothing like it once was. We are a town of poverty, high crime and a declining middle class. This has made it difficult to keep our families here since so many can move across the border to Idaho where housing is more affordable, there is less crime, and those communities have the means to provide better recreational activities for their citizens.

We have been in a downward spiral. Families are not choosing to live here. This makes it more challenging for people like me and others who wish to stay. It is very disheartening to know so many lifelong residents choosing to now live in Idaho. It is taking our best families, kids and taxpayers from Ontario. People will choose to work or own businesses in Ontario, but do not want to reside here. As a retired schoolteacher I have witnessed a time when only a handful of teachers employed lived outside the district, to where at the time of my retirement over two-thirds of all staff and administrators now live in Idaho. This is unheard of anywhere else! Imagine the change that makes when we don't have their property taxes, votes on school bonds or their kids in our schools. The whole dynamic of the community is negatively impacted.

HB-2410 providing significant funds to vastly improve recreational activities for Ontario would be a win-win for the state and Ontario. We need to make steps to keep residents in Ontario and the state of Oregon. Updated recreation facilities would have a huge impact in making that a reality. Let's make progress toward taking a town that is now known as the dispensary capital of Oregon and help bring it back to being once again a "crown jewel" of Eastern Oregon. Our future residents deserve it.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Boyd". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned at the bottom of the page, below the typed name "Sincerely".