

## **Public Testimony in Support of Riddle Activity Center**

**By: Rick Burton**  
**South Umpqua School District, Director of Student Services**  
**Southern Douglas County Community Member**

I am compelled and equally committed to write a letter of support for the Riddle Activity Center project. The basis of which is intended to serve the larger region of children and families often viewed as isolated and remote in the county.

As a resident of the region for the majority of my life, I am excited to see the opportunity for this type of project and know the long-lasting positive impact these endeavors produce over the years. The discussion of developing an activity center for children, adolescents, and families will have an enormous impact on the morale and growth mindset we ask our children and families to commit to.

As a community activity center located closely to the epicenter of our regional schools and along the Interstate 5, access to the facility will be an easy commute for the schools and families to transport children for after school activities. The location in Riddle recognizes the heritage and community bonds of the industry, and leaders in that industry, as integral in our commitments to increase opportunities for families in the region. It will create a sense of pride and ownership in the communities as a hub, and like all developments with good intentions, will attract new families and students to our area.

The plan to develop a Riddle Activity Center will allow regional schools to partner more in after school activities, connect cultures, engage new partnerships with communities feeling left out, and reward Southern Douglas County residents with future options as the times change. The Center can serve as a training hub, after school site for clubs and groups, support emergency evacuations, and provide activity-based programs from sports to hobbies. The options are endless.

Lastly, the Riddle Activity Center will represent a legacy of the leaders, mill owners, workers, and industry that comprises our families. The single gesture of supporting a project like this will allow ownership and reciprocal commitments from a community needing this at this time. Moreover, it will support and sustain a legacy of regional improvement that will have a lasting impact just through its inception and development as planned.

Respectfully,

Rick Burton

Director of Student Services  
South Umpqua School District