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**CORBETT SCHOOL DISTRICT
NO. 39**

February 16, 2024

Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey, Members of the Committee:

For the record, I am Dr. Derek Fialkiewicz, Superintendent of the Corbett School District. I'm coming to you today to request \$1.5 million to help with the construction of a walking track for our district and community.

Corbett is a small district of just over 1,000 students, located in far East Multnomah County, just west of Multnomah Falls. We pride ourselves on an innovative approach to our work: we are a charter district; we operate on a four-day school week; we utilize a continuous-progress model with multi-age instruction, and provide Advanced Placement for All at the high school level. In short, we are small but mighty.

This can-do attitude is reflective of the broader Corbett community. Part of unincorporated Multnomah County, much of the cohesion in our community is the result of local volunteers and non-profit organizations. The school district is a critical part of this local patchwork; not only are our buildings located in the center of the main thoroughfare, but we employ many in the community. Despite all of our local collaboration, Corbett is not without its challenges.

As an unincorporated community made up of county roads and state highways, we are significantly lacking in pedestrian infrastructure. On top of that, we happen to be located in one of the most beautiful parts of the state, which draws in tourists by the droves when the weather is nice, so much so that the State experimented with timed permits for the Historic Columbia River Highway two summers ago. This combination of traffic and lack of sidewalks makes it unsafe for our students and families to walk or run out in our community.

This is just my second school year in Corbett, but I take our role in the community very seriously. The district has purchased land adjacent to our schools for the construction of a new track, that would not only serve students, but that would be open to the broader community outside of school hours. This would give residents of all ages a safe place to exercise.

Unfortunately, our district has had unforeseen financial hits that make completion of this project on our own challenging, to say the least. Due to rising construction and supply costs, the construction of our new middle school went over budget, resulting in the district covering the excess out of our reserves. We've suffered significant facilities damage from recent weather events.

In order to move forward with development of the community track as planned, we are seeking the Legislature's help. With an investment of \$1.5 million, we can provide our community with a track and lighting that will give them a safe place to walk and jog throughout the year.

I thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Dr. Derek Fialkiewicz, Superintendent
Corbett School District

CARDINAL COUNTRY