

Submitter: Eric Wold
On Behalf Of: Emerald Valley Pickleball Foundation and CoRRA
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB5006

Good evening.

My name is Eric Wold. I am from Eugene and I am a board member of the Emerald Valley Pickleball Foundation. Our focal project is to construct a Regional Pickleball Complex on the campus of Lane Community College (LCC) to serve the entire community and its visitors.

I'm speaking tonight as a representative of a collaborative of 7 non-profit organizations, called "CORAA". We have come together to request \$6.3 million in lottery bond funding for 7 quality of life projects in rural and urban Lane County, including Oakridge, Cottage Grove, Eugene, and Springfield.

As a collaborative, we have already raised \$21 of the \$27 million needed for the 7 projects. We are asking the state for the final \$6.3 million.

In other words, this will be completion funding: a one -time request for 7 shovel-ready projects. One of those is the pickleball complex at LCC.

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the country and it has been for the past 5 years, because:

1. It is easy to learn.
2. It is inclusive of all abilities and backgrounds.
3. It fosters social relationships and community cohesion.
4. It is a great form of physical activity.
5. It is played by people of all ages, and it is multi-generational.

In short, it bolsters physical and mental health and wellness.

But because of its rapid growth, the number of players and demand for court time has far outpaced the availability of courts. Because of this, the physical and mental health benefits of pickleball are not being realized to all who want to benefit. The planned complex at LCC will help remedy this issue.

It will also draw in tourists, for example, through tournaments, which will add millions to the economy of Lane County.

Importantly, the complex has been designed for maximum accessibility for players

and spectators who use wheelchairs.

Of the \$6.3 million requested by CORRA, \$1.5 is for the pickleball complex.

In summary, I encourage you to support CORRA's request for \$6.3 million to complete 7 shovel-ready projects in Lane County that provide immense public benefit.

Thank you for your service and for listening to our testimony this evening.