

Testimony in Support of CoRRA's Capital Construction Application

Request: \$6.344 million

My name is Claire Syrett. I reside in Eugene, and I am the president of the Eugene Parks Foundation, a public private partnership with the city of Eugene that increases access to parks, open space and recreational opportunities in our region. I am here to speak in support of the lottery bonded capital construction application submitted by the Coalition of Recreation Arts and Athletics (CoRAA) of which we are a member. This \$6.3 million request would provide critical last dollar funding for seven project in Lane County. Each of these projects represents an important investment in the health, well being and community connections that will benefit current and future generations of Oregonians. Each of the organizations in our coalition has already secured \$21 million in local government and private sector funding for their respective projects and our capital construction request would provide that last piece of funding to complete each project. All of these projects are ready for construction with permits, easements and other administrative requirements completed. Lane County is serving as the fiscal sponsor for our application.

The projects range from the installation of the only wheelchair accessible boat ramp along the Willamette river, to putting a roof on a vital community center in Oakridge that provides access to critical resources for an underserved population, funding a community reader board to provide emergency and community announcements to Cottage Grove residents, to increasing access to a new park in Eugene for people with disabilities, to providing important intergenerational recreational opportunities through infrastructure investments at Lane Ice Sport and the building of a regional pickle ball facilities, to enhancing the opportunity to engage with arts and culture at the historic Shelton McMurphy Johnson House. These projects provide the opportunity for no or low cost, low barrier access to vital quality of life experiences and our community commons whether that is getting out in nature, connecting with neighbors and vital resources, accessing the arts, engaging in healthy recreational activities that foster human connection and the well-being of our community. This is an important investment we can make in our region that will benefit Oregon through increased mental and physical health as well as economic growth. I thank you for this opportunity to share my passion for these projects and ask that you support CoRAA's application when it comes before you. Thank you.