

Submitter: Roger Schaljo

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Capital Construction

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5531

To the Capital Construction Subcommittee,

I am a Lane County resident asking you to support the funding request for the Regional Pickleball Complex at Lane Community College (LCC) and the entire Lane County CoRRA coalition, which has applied for Capital Construction funding. Lane County CoRAA is a group of 7 non-profits that are collaborating to support the quality of life for all in our community, especially families who do not have the economic means for private clubs or travel. A small investment from the State will bring all of these projects to completion.

As President of the Emerald Valley Pickleball Club (EVPC), I wish to express our organization's support for the Emerald Valley Pickleball Foundation's (Foundation) Regional Pickleball Complex. The new pickleball facility, with 24 courts, will be located at the main Lane Community College campus in Eugene. The courts will be open to all residents. It will be a valuable community asset that will provide a healthy lifelong activity, create community connections, and spur economic development for all Lane County residents and visitors.

Our pickleball community has an estimated 4,000 individuals that play on a regular basis. There are only 22 public permanent outdoor pickleball courts in our community that are shared by those 4,000 players. Sixteen of those courts are in major disrepair. There are simply not enough courts to meet our current demand for play. There are zero facilities that are completely ADA accessible.

Our rapid increase in the number of local players mimics what is happening across the country. For the third year in a row pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the nation. According to the Sports and Fitness Industry Association, "pickleball grew over 220% in the last three years with every age group seeing increased participation. The cross-generational appeal highlights pickleball's versatility and its ability to bring together diverse groups of people."

The local community and our local governments are all pitching in to help create this community facility. For a relatively small sum from the state, we can make sure there are free public courts for our community and help the quality of life for thousands of Lane County residents.

For more information on the planned Regional Pickleball Complex, at LCC visit evpickleballfoundation.com.

Thank you for your service to our state.

Sincerely,
Roger Schaljo
19 Kathleen Court
Springfield, Or 97477
Sent from my iPhone