

Co-chairs Johnson, Hayward and Rayfield and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means,

I am Robert Kingzett, Executive Director for the Wendt Family Foundation, Klamath Falls. We are asking for support for a terrific project for enhancing physical recreation opportunities in our community and for a broad geographic swath around us. Mike's Fieldhouse in Klamath Falls has the finest in-door soccer facility owned and operated by a non-profit 501(c)(3) in the entire Northwest. We are endeavoring to greatly expand the utilization of this facility by adding three interlocked hardwood maple floors in Mike's. These courts will be utilized to play pickleball, basketball, volleyball and wrestling among other sporting pursuits. Pickleball usage alone will be phenomenal with 9 courts 36 people can play at one time!

The ROI for this investment will be excellent with a projection of over 15,000 participation units per season and with up to 25 tournaments we project that there will be (post Covid) well over \$1 million in benefits annually for local food, lodging and assorted local businesses that have been devastated by Covid.

There is nothing like this facility (with the three courts) in Southern, Central or Eastern Oregon, and lots of Northern California people will come and spend their tourism dollars here participating in tournaments, and that is a good thing! Total project costs for the courts and accoutrements will be a nudge over \$450,000. Raising funds in the Covid reality is not especially easy, but we are proud to note that we have raised a bit over \$300,000 to-date. The Wendt Family Foundation made a lead gift award of \$120,000 to sponsor the first court. We are specifically asking you to allocate \$100,000 to this magnificent project from the Federal funds at your disposal. Such an award would help us complete the project and be operational for the Fall season.

We pride ourselves in the diversity of usage of our programs at Mike's. Programs are oriented to encourage usage by families, youth, adults and the courts will see substantial usage by our local Hispanic, African American and Native American communities. And for tournaments, we already have people from Ashland, Medford, Grants Pass and Bend in Oregon and then as far away as Redding and the Bay Area expressing interest in coming for pickleball tournaments.

I want to express my full appreciation to our local State Representative, Werner Reschke who alerted us to the opportunity to apply for these funds. Rep. Reschke, like all of you, works incredibly hard for the people in his/our district.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in the written format. I was in the queue to testify orally but there was a sizable group and the clock ran out before some of us were able to visit with you. Thanks for standing up for Oregon in these challenging times.

Yours in Philanthropy,

Robert Kingzett, Executive Director
Wendt Family Foundation, Klamath Falls