



Senator Chris Gorsek
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE., Salem, OR 97301

TO: Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
FROM: Senator Chris Gorsek
DATE: February 11, 2022
RE: Lottery Bond Funds for Reynolds Athletic Fields

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

For the record, I'm Chris Gorsek, State Senator for District 25, which includes the Cities of Gresham, Troutdale, and Fairview. I'm here today to request \$8.28 in lottery bond funds for the construction and improvement of athletic facilities at Reynolds High School.

As many of you know, Reynolds High School is located in Troutdale, and it is one of the largest high schools in our state. With over 2,500 students Reynolds is considered a 6A school by the OSAA. What you may not know is that despite this, Reynolds High School lacks a football field adequate for hosting competitions.

The field at Reynolds has substandard goal posts and didn't have any field lighting until this past year. Bleachers are wooden, in poor condition, and lacking capacity. According to a recent facilities report, the football field is typical of what one would expect at a middle school, not one of the largest high schools in our state.

To ensure an appropriate field for competitive play, Reynolds contracts with Mt. Hood Community College for use of their stadium for "home" games. As much love as I have for Mt. Hood, this just shouldn't be the case.

I'd invite you to think back to your own experiences in high school, either as a student athlete yourself or as a spectator cheering on your friends and classmates – that experience of being at school for these sorts of events outside of the classroom builds a sense of community and connection for our students. It can also foster a sense of pride. Now I'd ask you to think about what message it sends our students when facilities are so inadequate that they can't engage in competition on their home field.

Colleagues, we all know that many of our schools need significant maintenance and repairs. Reynolds School District is doing their best to prioritize the most pressing health and safety issues in their buildings. But that means that athletic facilities fall further on the list and Reynolds students continue to travel to Mt. Hood while the other schools in their conference host home games on their own campuses.



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Reynolds is not only one of the largest high schools in the state, but it is also one of the most diverse, with a majority of students being from historically under-represented groups. It is also located in a community that tends to not have a great deal of disposable income, with 81% of students in the district living in poverty. This makes fundraising and passing bonds challenging.

With this \$8.28 million allocation we can help district staff stay focused on the health and safety needs of our buildings, while ensuring that our students also have access to the quality facilities one would expect for one of our state's largest high schools.

Senator Chris Gorsek
District 25 - Troutdale
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