

Vice Chairs Morgan and Nguyen, fellow committee members, for the record my name is Janelle Bynum, state representative for House District 39.

I am testifying today in support of House Bill 3250 to advocate for establishment of the “Task Force on the State of Sport in Oregon,” because our state must begin planning for how we can expand on the athletic, outdoor, team and reaction economy that has organically developed out of our state’s natural landscape and active population.

Oregon has already proven itself an attractive destination for world class sporting events. Portland was recently selected as the host city for the 2030 NCAA Women’s Final Four. The World Athletics Championships, the largest track and field event in the world outside of the Olympic, held its 2022 games in Eugene. This was the first time the World Championships was hosted in the United States, and the fact Eugene was selected as the host city shows the potential of our state to become a world leader in the sports industry.

The proposed task force will generate recommendations to build on the current strengths of our sports industry and will solicit input from the perspectives of both youth and professional sports stakeholders to better plan for expansion in this sector. The Task Force will also take an inventory of sporting and athletic facilities in every county and assess the needs for improving, expanding or building new facilities in our communities.

Finally, it is worth noting that tourism through youth sports, trail runs, mountain biking, and all the other great recreational opportunities that bring people to Oregon benefits the economy statewide as people come to the state to stay in our hotels, visit our fabulous restaurants and enjoy Oregon’s natural beauty and world class products. Creating this Task Force is the next logical step to expand Oregon’s potential to become a true leader in the sports and recreation industry.

Colleagues, for these reasons I hope you join me in supporting House Bill 3250.