

My name is James Vogt and I am here to speak in support of HB-2410. I have lived in Ontario since 1993 except for 4 years when I lived in a small town in Kansas that was similar in size to Ontario. That small town also had a run-down public pool (although it was, at least, still open) and the city made the bold move to invest in major upgrades to that facility. I saw the impact of this decision first-hand and believe Ontario could benefit in the following similar ways:

First, and most obviously, this will generate revenue and jobs. But the revenue generated is not just about the price of admission, there is more nuance to it than that. You see, there are three cities, Ontario, here in Oregon and Payette and Fruitland, in Idaho that basically function as one community. We go there, they come here, we all flow freely between festivals, fairs and special events. But there is one major difference.

When we go there and spend money, they get to keep some of it in the form of sales tax. It costs us to visit their cities. Since we don't have that option, the reality is that we have to financially support our friends from Idaho every day as they come here and use our parks, roads and infrastructure. Some creative residency-based admission prices to this new facility could help us begin to assist our neighbors from across the river in paying their fair share.

Secondly, this new facility will begin to change the 'reputation' of our town. The fact is that well-intentioned legislation and

policy enacted on the west side of the state often have significant impact on us. Because it is much more difficult for new development in Oregon, we often lose out to Idaho. Just drive one mile east and you'll see tons of new development in Fruitland, Idaho, while things here are pretty quiet. As a result, the reputation here is that Ontario, "Can't have new things." A pool and rec center, made possible by HB-2410 will begin to change this narrative.

I urge the members of this committee to authorize the emergency use of lottery bonds to impact and improve this part of Oregon that is literally the gateway to the rest of the state.

Thank you.