

HB 5201 TPLs Madras and Alameda Community Schoolyard Projects

Sen Girod, Rep Holvey

I am Mack Gardner, a 30 yr resident of Madras in Jefferson County and I am here this afternoon to speak in SUPPORT of the TPLs Madras and Alameda Community Schoolyard Projects.

On a personal level this is just the type of project this community has been aspiring toward. And certainly headed into the 21st century with additional green space and recreational opportunities. Madras will be continuing in the steps of the 30 year history of a Tree City designation from both the Oregon Department of Forestry and the National Arbor Foundation.

The Madras Elem school yard equipment, is old, out of date and the environment is gravel and asphalt with no shade. The new design is none of this. Yet offers all the advantages of new, assessable, shaded and interactive elements.

As indicated by the accompanying documentation for your support, the coalition of 17 different private, public, Native American, municipal, county, taxiing districts, educational, recreational, faith based, Foundation, Latino and medical have all been engaged in this full up community effort. In the design of this schoolyard project. Each one with their own skill sets, capabilities and resources.

All in the interest and benefit of the education, healthy life styles and development of our youth. Please bare in mind some of these agency's, organizations are regional. Not based in Madras, yet they have signed up to be part of and support this Madras schoolyard effort.

Training and developing community members and educators is an added benefit not lost on local school curriculum specialists and of those of us who are trained in and certified as experiential educators and trainers. And these considerations may only scratch the surface.

This request is both modest and on the mark. Modest because it accepts our responsibility to be part of the financial solution. The community has reached out and secured a significant amount of funding. On the mark because since the community at large was engaged in the development of this project and their interest and involvement is reflected in its design.

In closing, you have before you and very thoughtful and considerate request. After 30 years in this community, actively involved in educational, public and private health, both Oregon Head Start and Federal Migrant Head Start programs, I can step up to you and say Yes. I support this project.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. Mack Gardner