



333 Broadalbin Street SW, Albany, Oregon 97321 | PHONE 541-917-7777

January 27, 2025

Dear Representative Boshart Davis,

I am writing to support the establishment of the Imagination Library of Oregon Program. At Albany Parks & Recreation, we work with our colleagues at the Albany Library to make sure that the youth in our community have healthy ways to learn, grow, and recreate. Literate children are happier, healthier, and more successful. They are also more likely to engage with a variety of healthy programs offered in our community such as dance, the arts, and sports. Children with lower literacy rates are also more likely to participate in negative activities like vandalism, graffiti, and other behaviors which impact both their personal lives and our public spaces. We believe in the Imagination Library of Oregon Program and allowed the Rotary Club of Albany to market the program at six free Fun in the Park community events this past summer. Kids loved to look through the sample books and often told their parents to sign them up as they were excited to get their own book in the mail each month. We know times are difficult for families, and for some, the Imagination Library books may be the only ones their kids own. Over the course of five years, each child in a family can receive 60 books. Books geared specifically towards different developmental stages and educational needs. Many of the books also have Spanish language translation which increases their impact with our residents. Developing the next generation of leaders starts young and the Imagination Library of Oregon Program helps to give our children the tools needed to be smart, successful, and empathetic citizens.

On a personal note, I can say that as a parent of two children (five and two), we love the program. Our five-year-old recently aged out but still looks forward to walking to the mailbox because she can't wait to see her brother's next book. The program has introduced my family to stories we would not have found otherwise. Stories that my children love and ask me to read over and over again. As a parent, I appreciate the books because they are inclusive and show characters of all varieties. As a parent of a deaf child, it means the world to me to see books with characters that have hearing aids and/or cochlear implants. Representation matters and the Imagination Library has done a wonderful job of incorporating diverse stories and imagery into their selection list.

Please consider the establishment of the Imagination Library of Oregon so that all children, not just those in designated areas, can benefit from this incredible program. Thank you for your time and

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consideration. If you would like to talk more regarding this issue, do not hesitate to reach me at (541) 917-7769 or kim.lyddane@albanyoregon.gov.

With regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Lyddane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kim" being more prominent than the last name "Lyddane".

Kim Lyddane
Director, Albany Parks & Recreation