

# SUTHERLIN SCHOOL DISTRICT #130

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To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Sutherlin School District, I am writing to express my strong support for the \$15 million state legislative grant request to help fund the Douglas County Youth Sports Park. This project is a transformational investment in our children and our community, providing opportunities for students who need them most while also helping to revitalize our local economy.

In Sutherlin and throughout Douglas County, many of our students come from working-class and low-income families, where access to organized sports and extracurricular activities is limited by financial barriers. We know that kids who participate in structured activities are more likely to succeed in school, develop social skills, and build self-confidence, but far too often, only families of financial means can afford for their children to participate.

Making this challenge even greater, Sutherlin has no public courts or community field space, leaving kids with few opportunities for recreation outside of school-sponsored activities. The need for accessible, high-quality sports facilities is urgent and unmet.

The Douglas County Youth Sports Park will change that. By providing high-quality, local facilities, this project will ensure that every student—regardless of background—has access to sports and recreational opportunities that can shape their future. For many of our students, this could be a life-changing opportunity, keeping them engaged in positive activities, helping them build discipline and teamwork, and giving them a chance to dream bigger than their circumstances.

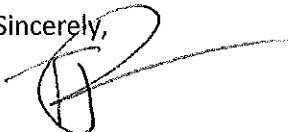
Beyond the benefits to our students, the economic impact of this project will be a major boost for our community. Over the past generation, Sutherlin and much of Douglas County have struggled with job losses and an eroded economic base. Families are moving away, and attracting new businesses and professionals is a growing challenge.

The Douglas County Youth Sports Park will inject \$7 million annually into the local economy, attracting visitors, tournaments, and tourism dollars that will directly benefit local businesses, restaurants, and hotels. This type of investment is exactly what our region needs to help rebuild and sustain a thriving community. It will also help us attract and retain professionals—including teachers and school staff—by providing a high-quality recreational amenity that makes Douglas County a more desirable place to live and work.

For our students, for our families, and for the economic well-being of our community, this project is essential. It will level the playing field for disadvantaged youth, provide critical opportunities for engagement and growth, and give our local economy the boost it desperately needs.

I strongly urge full support for this funding request. The Douglas County Youth Sports Park will provide a lasting impact on the lives of our students and the future of our community.

Sincerely,



Terry Prestianni  
Superintendent, Sutherlin School District