

Ryan Curtis

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Joint Committee on Capital Construction

Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Letter of Support for Western Oregon University's \$1.4 Million Article F Bond Request

Dear Co-Chairs and Members of the Joint Committee on Capital Construction,

I'm writing in strong support of Western Oregon University's \$1.4 million Article F Bond Request, which will fund essential improvements to the university's recreational field and facilities.

As a rugby referee since 2015—officiating at the professional and international levels—and as Head Referee for the state of Oregon, I've had the opportunity to work closely with WOU's rugby program for nearly a decade. Their staff is among the best I've worked with, and the university has consistently demonstrated a commitment to hosting high-quality regional and championship events. WOU has become a true cornerstone for rugby in Oregon and the broader Pacific Northwest.

Installing new turf and upgrading the field will significantly increase WOU's capacity to host elite-level tournaments, many of which bring hundreds of athletes, families, and supporters into Monmouth, Independence, and surrounding areas. These events have a measurable economic impact on rural Polk County—from hotel stays and dining to retail and local services.

Beyond the tournaments and clinics, this investment improves access to safe, modern facilities for local youth sports and community programming. And from a campus perspective, it supports student wellness, engagement, and retention—particularly in Club and Intramural Sports, which play a growing role in student life and campus culture.

WOU has already proven itself as a premier destination for regional rugby and community sports. This bond funding will allow them to build on that momentum—and continue providing statewide value. I strongly urge your support for this request.

Thank you for your time and for your continued investment in Oregon's public universities and rural communities.

Sincerely,

Ryan Curtis

Former MLR & World Rugby Referee
Former Treasurer & President, Pacific Northwest Rugby Referee Society
Head Referee, State of Oregon