



*“Coming together for healthy forests and communities”*

May 7, 2025

To: Senator & Chair Fred Girod & Members of the  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

From: South Willamette Solutions Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative

Subject: Senate Bill 5531

I am Guenevere DiGioia, and I’m from Oakridge, Oregon, representing the nonprofit, South Willamette Solutions. This testimony is regarding the funding request for the Willamette Activity Center (WAC) renovation within the Lane County Coalition of Recreation, Arts, and Athletics (CoRAA).

CoRAA represents a collection of projects that offer benefits for ALL Lane County residents and visitors, including: development of community spaces, economic development, healthful exercise, access to nature, social connection, local culture and history, and more. In particular, the Willamette Activity Center renovation. The Willamette Activity Center (WAC), located in Oakridge’s highest density and lowest income neighborhood, has been a pivotal location housing social services supporting Oakridge and the surrounding areas until it became uninsurable in 2021. In 2022, the City of Oakridge received a \$1.5M grant from the Oregon Rural Infrastructure Package to remodel the WAC, and the WAC Funding Group has been fundraising since.

The WAC Renovation is planned as a local health and social service center with a turnkey emergency operations center, community shelter, and safe refuge during excess heat, smoke, and cold or disaster events. The \$1.5 million total requested for the WAC within Lane County CoRAA will ensure the WAC Resilience Hub’s future success.

Thank you for your consideration,

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