



Cindy Weeldreyer

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Dear Members of the Joint Ways & Means Committee,
RE: SB 5531

I served 12 years as a Lane County elected official, so I am keenly aware of the challenge you face in allocating capital construction funds to worthy projects, in communities throughout Oregon, with a limited amount of lottery funds that, no doubt, fall short of the total amount of requests before you.

In my years as an elected official, I traveled to state and national conferences. In my conversations with leaders from other counties and community colleges, I became aware of how exceptional Lane County officials are in prioritizing and collaborating for state and federal project funding! The Lane County Coalition of Recreation, Arts & Athletics (CoRAA) is an excellent example of the inter-agency collaboration we are known for.

Before you today is CoRAA's \$6.34 million dollar request to *complete* seven important capital projects in both urban and rural Lane County. Included in that request is a project submitted by the City of Cottage Grove and the Bohemia Foundation to complete improvements in the north end of Bohemia Park.

I've been a Grover since 1983 . I am proud that my pretty amazing little town is a two-time All-America City Award winner (the "Nobel Prize for Community Collaboration")! I believe Bohemia Park is a wonderful example of a unique public/private venture between the City and the Stewart Family that fulfills Stub Stewart's vision of creating a beautiful park in his hometown for people of all ages to make happy memories in.

Bohemia Park hosts large and small gatherings – from birthday parties, class and family reunions to concerts in the amphitheater. It is a place for families to bring their kids to learn to ride their bike, play on the playground and enjoy the new splash pad on hot days.

Inflationary costs forced us to pull out some of the unique features in the original plan for the park's north end that is next to Main Street. The requested state funding will complete the history-themed railroad water tower to provide a much-needed community reader board to let folks know what is happening around town and, even more importantly, provide instructions to our citizens in a time of emergency.

Therefore, I am writing to ask you to please fund CoRAA's grant request. All of CoRAA's projects have raised \$21 million dollars and they will provide preventative healthcare benefits (both physical and mental), tremendous economic development impact, and will greatly enhance the quality of life here in Lane County.

Thank you for your time and service to Oregonians and for your support of this important coalition.

Cindy

Cindy Weeldreyer
Lane County Commissioner, 1995-2002
Lane Community College Board of Directors, 1989-1995