

Submitter: Bev McCulley
On Behalf Of: Upper Willamette CDC
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Capital Construction
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5531

I am writing to show my support for the Lane County Coalition of Recreation, Arts and Athletics (CoRAA). I live in Oakridge and am a longtime supporter of the Willamette Activity Center, and CoRAA is helping the community rehabilitate the WAC.

Prior to its closing the WAC was the site of many valuable social services, which have since been forced to relocate or no longer operate. The Upper Willamette CDC operates the Oakridge Food Box program which was located at the WAC prior to its closing. The Oakridge Food Box has relocated to a facility which is approximately 2 miles beyond the Oakridge City limits. Being outside the city limits poses a difficulty for some of our clients who either don't have a vehicle or a reliable vehicle. In calendar year 2024 the Oakridge Food Box served 1380 individuals in 655 households. We look forward to the time when the WAC is rehabilitated and the Oakridge Food Box will be able to return to a facility located in the center of Oakridge. The site is also intended to serve as a home to a much needed medical clinic and emergency operations hub.

I know that many difficult decisions will be made this legislative session and I encourage you to support CoRAA. All of CoRAA's projects have preventative healthcare benefits (both physical and mental), tremendous economic development impact and will greatly enhance the quality of life here in Lane County.

The groups that make up CoRAA have raised \$21 million dollars and are requesting \$6.4 million to COMPLETE seven important capital projects, in both urban and rural areas of Lane County.

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