

May 8, 2025

Dear Co-chairs Nosse and Girod and Committee Members,

I am writing to ask for your support for the lottery-backed bonding request from the **Lane County Coalition of Outdoor Recreation, Arts, and Athletics (CoRRA)**. This request will provide completion funding for seven construction projects that will provide access to important health, mental health, social connection and economic development supports for communities across Lane County.

As the retired Director of Lane County's Health & Human Services Department, I am excited about all seven of the projects, and their promise to get people of all ages and income levels off the couch with time away from screens. And, collectively these projects have already raised over \$21 million in their communities—this is a great opportunity for leveraging those lottery dollars with significant community investment.

I'd like to lift up two of the projects in particular. The **Regional Pickleball Complex at Lane Community College** is an amazing public/private partnership located on the campus of LCC just off Interstate 5. This 24-court facility will be both a regional tourism destination for large tournaments, as well as a way to address the significant unmet demand for community members to play. Data continues to demonstrate the positive impact of pickleball on both physical health and mental health, as well as addressing the epidemic of loneliness (particularly among the very young and the very old). This sport continues to grow because it's easy to learn, accessible across ages and abilities, inexpensive to play and builds crucial social connections. Studies show it's an effective adjunct to mental health and addiction treatment, and our own Serenity Lane has partnered with our pickleball club to provide clinics for clients to ease their transition back into the community. We honestly see this sport transforming people's lives. Public courts make this sport accessible to the whole community.

Another exciting example is the **accessible boat launch on the Willamette River at Lane County's Buford Park**. This park (also known as Mt. Pisgah) is a highly utilized County park right between Eugene and Springfield. The proposed boat launch would provide an accessible parking, path and put-in/take out for people who use wheelchairs—the Oregon Marine Board says it will be the first such accessible launch into the Willamette River. I'm excited about the opportunities to access nature for Oregonians with disabilities and their family and friends.

I know there are many important priorities this session, and I urge you to balance lottery investments to include long-term health and wellness strategies that support thriving communities. CoRAA provides this opportunity.

Thank you for your service to our state, and for your consideration of the funding request from CoRRA.

Sincerely,

Karen Gaffney