

Dear Capital Construction Subcommittee,

I am writing to show my support for the Lane County Coalition of Recreation, Arts, and Athletics (CoRAA). I am a supporter of Frozen Ice Sports, and CoRAA is helping us replace the roof at the Lane Ice Center, which is currently leaking and has been leaking for a number of years. Band-Aid fixes have kept water off the main ice surface, but these efforts are becoming harder to make water collection successful. Continued deterioration could cause the closure of the entire facility.

Supporters of the Lane Ice Center have recently been involved in a large fundraising effort to replace the ice making equipment and ice surface chilling system. It was wonderful to see our community come together to support our ice rink and be a part of the solution to keep ice sports in our community. Just one year ago we faced the possibility that the rink would not reopen, but in the Fall of 2024, the ice rink opened with all new ice making equipment and a stellar season followed. Now we face another threat with the roof needing major repairs.

Ice sports are important to our community health – not only is it a great option for exercise and recreation during the rainy months in Oregon, it also offers the best of all worlds of athleticism. Hockey is a team sport for all ages – we have hockey teams from 4 to 74 years old; figure skating can be a team or an individual sport – and often is both for many skaters; recreational skating is a fun, family-friendly activity that doesn't require a long drive or specialized clothing and has a moderate cost factor. These opportunities keep our citizens engaged and moving which leads to overall health benefits, physical and mental.

Our rink and skating programs also offer opportunities for friendship and camaraderie through the building of communities of specialized skating populations such as the Lane Amateur Hockey Association (LAHA) and the Eugene Figure Skating Club (EFSC). Both non-profit, volunteer-driven organizations offer specialized programming for skill advancement but offer far more in terms of friendship, sportsmanship and goal-setting.

As with all legislative sessions, I know that many difficult decisions will need to be made, but I encourage you to support CoRAA. The groups that make up CoRAA have raised \$21 million dollars and are requesting \$6.34 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.

Sincerely,

*Denise Behan*

Past President, Eugene Figure Skating Club