



Virginia Garcia Memorial
HEALTH CENTER

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May 6, 2025

Honorable Members of the Subcommittee on Capital Construction, Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Cornelius Recreation and Community Center Project Funding Request

Dear Committee Members,

We write in support of the City of Cornelius's request for Capital funding for the community's first Recreation and Community Center. The proposed project, located adjacent to City Hall and the Cornelius Library, will re-purpose an existing building – the gym, cafeteria, and associated spaces of the current Cornelius Elementary School. With local bond funding, the school district is nearing completion of a new school on the site, and the City plans to acquire the gym/cafeteria portion of the school building for the new Center.

Last year, the City developed a Concept Plan for the building renovation that reflects substantial community input for what needs the project will address. It will serve critical community needs, including:

- Youth and adult recreation, including basketball, pickleball, and exercise classes
- Emergency shelter for extreme heat, cold, and other emergencies
- After school activities
- Senior activities
- Arts programming
- Community events

This space will also provide a place for community partners to deliver needed services and programs, enriching lives and building connections.

Cornelius is a culturally rich and diverse community, with more than 50% of the community identifying as Latino. It is also a relatively low income community, and with local government revenue among the lowest in the greater Portland region, local funding of the project is not possible. We simply cannot achieve the project without your support. We urge you to fund the City's request, and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gil Muñoz, M.P.A

Chief Executive Officer

Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center