

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.

I started skating at 47 when the ice arena opened. Over 35 years skating has given me a passion, a challenge, exercise, a community and enormous pleasure. The rink provides a valuable sports opportunity to families. Children experience the challenges and benefits of any sport plus the joy of being on the ice. The ice rink is a boon to Lane County.

What has impressed me as much as the benefits derived from the rink is the way in which users have shown its value to them by helping to keep it available to the public. Lane County used to have total responsibility for running the arena. When the commissioners and Fair Board felt that was too much for the county to handle, users found a way to keep the arena operating. When the chilling system failed, the users found a way to replace it and keep skating in our community. We value the rink enough to work to keep it functioning. We would appreciate your assistance this time.

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.

Best Regards
Susan H Belanger