



February 13, 2026

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,

I write in strong support of the request for Capital Construction Lottery Bond funding for the Cornelius Recreation and Community Center project. This project will provide a safe, accessible gathering place that supports social connections, health and wellness, community engagement, and increases community resilience during extreme weather events and emergencies.

A critical element of this project is the intentional incorporation of features that will allow the building to serve as a community shelter when needed. Having grown nearly 20% since 2019, the lack of a local sheltering option is a critical need in Cornelius. We see every day the vulnerabilities that people experience, and this will be magnified in an emergency situation.

The City has recently created a new Emergency Operations Plan and has begun emergency response exercises and training. There is currently no space in the community large enough or otherwise suited to provide for emergency shelter. This project will renovate an existing building with emergency backup power and other sheltering features, ensuring residents have a place to go when they need it most.

As the primary emergency response provider for the community, I want to convey how important the resiliency function of this project is. This facility is an investment in emergency preparedness and public safety, serving one of the most vulnerable communities in this region.

Thank you for considering this request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Morris".

David Morris
Fire Chief