



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. A critical element of this project is to incorporate features so the building will serve as a community shelter. Having grown nearly 20% in the past several years, 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.

Adelante Mujeres partners with the city of Cornelius on multiple fronts, including a summer Farmers Market. **City staff are consistently professional and inclusive in our collaborative ventures. Given its history and demographics, Cornelius plays an especially important role for the immigrant community.**

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 so that residents will have a place to go when they most need it. As the primary emergency response provider for the community, I want to convey how important the resiliency function of this project is, and what it will mean for emergency preparedness and response for one of the most vulnerable communities in this region.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

Bridget Cooke, Executive Director

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