

Submitter: Leah Guliasi
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction
Measure, Appointment or SB5701
Topic:

Dear Hon. Capital Construction Subcommittee members,

I am the Interim Executive Director at Warm Springs Community Action Team (WSCAT) and we were awarded \$3.8 million by the 2025 session in SB5331. We are hard at work with the Commissary project as a result of this funding. I am writing with a formal request to amend Sec. 41 of SB 5331, the 2025 Xmas Tree bill. This amendment will say that the \$3.8 million in Capital Construction funding for WSCAT's Commissary Project (currently included in the 2027 Lottery Bond) would come from the 2026 Lottery Bond sale.

Earlier timing of this funding will ensure we can continue construction on the project without delays, as we finish prior phases of the project. This would save hundreds of thousands in anticipated construction costs and/or start/stop financing. As a 501(c)3 non profit serving the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, WSCAT has explored obtaining a bridge loan to ensure our ongoing project can continue, while waiting for the 2027 funding date. There are steep costs connected to our nonprofit and reservation-based status. We want to utilize state funding as smoothly as possible, ensuring that the state's contribution is put to the best use and can more quickly lead to the economic benefits this project will bring. Changing the funding date to this Spring would save the community several hundred thousand dollars, a substantial cost for our small non-profit.

We have been working with Hon. Rep Greg Smith (House District 57) to support and advocate for this amendment. Key CapCon committee members have been supporters of this projects and we thank them for their advocacy for needed community economic development in Warm Springs.

Thank You,
Leah Guliasi
Interim Executive Director
Warm Springs Community Action Team
leah@wscat.org