



February 13, 2026

TO: Subcommittee on Capital Construction, Joint Committee on Ways and Means

From: Nansi López, Policy Director for Centro Cultural

RE: Cornelius Recreation and Community Center Project Funding Request

My name is Nansi López, Policy Director for Centro Cultural. I appreciate the opportunity to testify on behalf of Centro Cultural in support of the funding request of Cornelius Recreation and Community Center Project.

Centro Cultural is the oldest and longest-serving Latino culturally specific organization in the state of Oregon. Centro has served as a safe place for our local Latino community, low-income migrant farmworkers, immigrant refugee communities, and all who come to our doors. Centro has continued to grow to ensure our community members thrive, working with regional, state, county, and city-wide agencies to advocate for more resources and equitable systems change to support communities of color.

Our organization strongly supports 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.

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.

We urge your strong support of funding this project that will support the needs of the Cornelius community.

Sincerely,

Nansi López, Policy Director for Centro Cultural  
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