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CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

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February 1, 2023

Honorable Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

CWU is proud to support the City of Ellensburg's request for \$9 million in capital funding under Local and Community Projects to provide partial support for the construction of a new Fieldhouse following the loss of the Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center.

The fire incident on December 2, 2022, resulted in a total loss of the Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center, creating an immediate barrier to public health access of the Ellensburg and Kittitas County communities. In addition to being the hub for a dynamic partnership between Central Washington University and the broader community for gymnastics and other recreational opportunities, the 40,000 square foot indoor facility served as a place for exercise and public health programming within an economically distressed rural Washington county. The Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center also served as a draw for prospective employees and their families to maintain an active and high-quality lifestyle as members of our region.

We applaud the City's collaborative approach in working with Kittitas County and Central Washington University to envision a multi-use indoor recreation facility with court and turf surfaces at Rotary Park, a city-owned 100-acre regional sports complex in Ellensburg. The proposal will address the immediate loss of the Racquet and Recreation Center while meeting current and future community needs. Central Washington University remains fully committed to supporting the growth and continued vitality of the City of Ellensburg and Kittitas County; prior to construction of this facility, we are continuing to explore possibilities to meet the immediate community need for recreational opportunities resulting from the loss of the Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center while balancing our commitment to providing access to our students and student-athletes.

We appreciate your consideration of the City's request of \$9 million in partial capital support through Local and Community Projects to provide for the construction of a new facility that will meet the needs of current and future generations of people across the Kittitas region.

Thank you,

A. James Wohlpart  
President

**Office of the President**

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CWU is an EEO/A/Title IX Institution. For accommodation email: [DS@cwu.edu](mailto:DS@cwu.edu).  
This is a communication from Central Washington University.



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February 1, 2023

Honorable Members of the House Capital Budget Committee,

CWU is proud to support the City of Ellensburg's request for \$9 million in capital funding under Local and Community Projects to provide partial support for the construction of a new Fieldhouse following the loss of the Ellensburg Racquet and Recreation Center.

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