

Oregon Skating Council, Inc.

**4840 Western, #70
Beaverton, OR 97008**

April 29, 2010

Commissioner Stewart,

On behalf of Oregon Skating Council, I am writing to encourage you to continue the operation of the Lane Events Ice Center. Oregon Skating Council is an interclub association that provides tactical support for the figure skating clubs in Oregon and Vancouver Washington that are members of the United States Figure Skating Association and promotes development of figure skating judges and officials. Oregon Skating Council also sponsors and hosts events with the assistance of local figure skating clubs.

Continued operation of the Lane Events Ice Center is important to figure skating in Oregon. The seating capacity at the Ice Center permits the hosting of events that no other facility in Oregon or Vancouver can handle. The Pacific Coast Sectional Synchronized Team Skating Championships have twice been held at the Lane Events Ice Center for this reason. The "Love to Skate" competition in February is a staple on young figure skaters' and coaches' calendars because of the quality of the facility, proximity of lodgings and the variety of other activities in the area. Ice dance weekends, which attract skaters from throughout the western United States and Canada, have successfully been held at the rink in the past, and the proximity of lodging and variety of other activities make Eugene a desirable location.

Last fall, Oregon Skating Council hosted the 2010 Northwest Pacific Regional Figure Skating Championships. This competition was the qualifying competition for skaters striving to compete at the US Figure Skating Championships and includes events for skaters at levels that do not proceed to a national competition. Several skaters from the Eugene Figure Skating Club participated in this prestigious competition. US Figure Skating permits this Regional competition to be held on one ice surface rather than a facility with two surfaces. The seating capacity and rink facilities would make Lane Events Ice Center an ideal location to hold this week-long event in the future.

Other figure skating programs that would draw participants from throughout the Northwest resulting in hotel stays, restaurant purchases and tourist dollars are:

Continuing education seminars for coaches, judges and other skating officials

Choreography and technical development seminars for competitive and developmental skaters.

When high school students who have skated competitively are looking for a college, the presence of Lane County Ice Center is a factor in encouraging these bright students to pursue their post-secondary education at University of Oregon, Lane County Community College and the private colleges in the area. Some skaters begin their coaching careers while a college student. Their income from coaching helps defray the cost of college and enables them to graduate with less debt. Since most skating officials are former skaters, the proximity of a skating rink while in college encourages skaters to stay involved in the sport making it more likely that they will become a judge or other skating official in the future.

Figure skating, whether pursued recreationally or competitively, can be started at any age and can continue throughout one's active life. Since Lane County promotes and is known for its healthy active lifestyle, figure skating, as a life-long activity, is a natural fit for the community.

Please vote to continue the operation of the Lane County Ice Center.



Lauren Zell
President