

**Carey Certo**

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**From:** Baranowski, Stephen T. <Stephen.Baranowski@camas.wednet.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 3, 2025 12:57 PM  
**To:** Community Development Email  
**Subject:** Camas High School Tennis Project

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Dear Hearings Examiner,

I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed indoor tennis facility at Camas High School. As a staff member at CHS and a longtime member of the Camas community, I have seen firsthand the need for such a facility—not just for our student-athletes and PE classes, but for the broader community as well.

Due to our climate in the Pacific Northwest, outdoor tennis is frequently disrupted by rain, making it difficult for players to practice and compete consistently. This is especially true for our girls' tennis program, which has over 110 athletes and experiences frequent weather-related interruptions during their spring season. Similarly, our boys' team, which has over 80 members, faces similar challenges during the late fall. Without an indoor option, practices and matches are often canceled or significantly limited, which takes away from connection opportunities for our students. We are in the kid business, trying to create belonging and connection for our students while encouraging them to live active and healthy lifestyles. In addition, having an indoor facility would allow for uninterrupted training, skill development, and the ability to schedule matches without constant weather-related concerns.

With our large team sizes, having eight courts is essential to operating our programs. Accessing any other facility in Camas would not provide the court time or space necessary to run our programs. This indoor facility would also provide a valuable resource for the entire community, offering year-round access to a sport that promotes lifelong fitness and well-being. Tennis is a sport that can be played from childhood through old age, making it an important recreational option for people of all ages. Providing an indoor space ensures that those looking to stay active—whether they are students, competitive athletes, or community members—have the opportunity to do so regardless of weather conditions.

Additionally, we have established an agreement with USTA-PNW to ensure that this facility will be a shared community resource. The agreement is strategic in its scheduling to allow for community members to utilize the facility while ensuring that usage does not impact our school's arrival or dismissal traffic times. Furthermore, USTA-PNW will offer open court time on a regular schedule for seniors in our community, granting them free access to the facility during those times. This is a fantastic opportunity for older adults to stay physically active, socially engaged, and maintain their overall well-being. By providing a dedicated space for senior citizens to enjoy tennis, we are fostering a stronger, healthier, and more connected community. USTA-PNW also has scholarship programs and opportunities to allow access to the programming without having cost be a barrier to those in need.

Beyond extracurricular athletics, this facility will enhance educational opportunities at Camas High School. Our PE classes will be able to use the facility during tennis units, providing students with a dedicated space to learn and practice. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to receive lessons from staff at the facility, further enriching their experience and skill development in the sport. The availability of an indoor tennis space will introduce more students to the game, potentially sparking lifelong interest and involvement in the sport. The ability to receive structured coaching from experienced staff will help students develop coordination, discipline, and teamwork—skills that are valuable both on and off the court. This facility will help produce the next generation of athletes that utilize all the facilities available in Clark County as we grow the game.

It is worth noting that many of our students who compete beyond the regular season for us end up using other indoor facilities throughout Clark County in the winter. They often express frustration with the lack of availability due to the shortage of courts, and having a facility of this size in Camas would serve this need and allow our community to stay close to home.

I urge you to support this project, as it will address a significant need and create new opportunities for both students and community members. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or require additional information.

Thank you,



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