

November 20, 2023

To the Board of County Commissioners
1300 NW Wall Street
Bend, OR 97703

Dear Commissioner, Patti Adair, Commissioner, Phil Chang and Chair, Tony DeBone:

The Chambers of Commerce of La Pine, Redmond and Sisters are requesting an annual allocation of \$60,000 each from the Video Lottery Fund.

Based on the information we have received this fund is to be used for Economic Development and Education purposes.

We are aware that the Sunriver Chamber has been receiving approximately \$60,000 (some years more, some years less) annual allocation for years, and we stand in strong support for continuing that allocation.

As you know, most of Deschutes County's businesses are made up of small businesses. The Chambers' role in providing much needed services to this sector is vital to the health of our economy.

As an example, During COVID the Chambers' were one of the only organizations willing to take in funds and distribute those funds to small businesses in Deschutes County. The distribution of funds to our small businesses resulted in our Chambers' being ineligible for relief funds, as those funds were run through our books (by our accountants), making us ineligible for COVID assistance.

We also assist with many different aspects, helping small businesses succeed throughout the county, a list of our economic development activities is attached to this packet.

Based on our conversation today, we respectfully request the allocation be approved.

Sincerely,

Ann Gawith, Eric Sande and Judy Trego



Deschutes County Rural Chambers of Commerce Activities

Redmond Chamber of Commerce

- We help to support, represent and strengthen businesses in North Deschutes County, Terrebonne and parts of Crooked River Ranch.
- We help and support the resorts of Eagle Crest and Juniper Preserve (continually work with group business holding events at the resorts).
- We help and support the team and events held at Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center.
- We help growing our community and destination of north Deschutes County.

Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce

- We promote, market, support, represent and strengthen the small business community in Western Deschutes County.
- We help and support the resorts of Black Butte Ranch, Aspen Lakes and the surrounding areas.
- We help and support many events held within Western Deschutes County, as an example, the Sisters Area Chamber of Commerce is one of the many sponsors for the Sisters Rodeo, we have also provided sponsorship to the Rodeo held at the Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center.
- We grow community by assisting businesses/community efforts in Western Deschutes County.
- We assist struggling businesses with loan referrals, employment, and business marketing consulting.
- We provide many networking opportunities for small businesses in Western Deschutes County.

La Pine Chamber of Commerce

- We help to market, support, represent and strengthen businesses in Southern Deschutes County.
- We help and support the resorts of Paulina Lake Lodge, East Lake Resort and the entire Newberry Crater recreational area, including working with the Deschutes National Forest.
- We help and support other resorts in the immediate area ... Twin Lakes Resort, Crane Prairie Resort, Cultus Lake Resort, Crescent Lake and Willamette Pass areas, as well as the Gilchrist/Crescent area.
- We help and support the many events held in La Pine, including the La Pine Frontier Days and the La Pine Rodeo, the Rhubarb Festival
- We help and support the community radio station KNCP FM
- We are a sponsor of the Deschutes County Fair and Rodeo
- We offer resources to our business community for information & education on workforce development, business plans and marketing, etc.
- We continually market the desirability of doing business and living in Southern Deschutes County

Sincerely,

Eric Sande, Judy Trego, Ann Gawith
CEO RDM, CEO SACC, CEO, LP Chamber

ORS 461.547

Distribution of certain video lottery revenues to counties for economic development.

The Oregon State Lottery Commission shall transfer an amount equal to 2.5 percent of the net receipts from video lottery games allocated to the Administrative Services Economic Development Fund to counties for economic development activities for the following purposes:

- Furthering economic development in Oregon;
- “Furthering economic development” includes, but is not limited to, providing:
 - Services or financial assistance to for-profit and nonprofit businesses located or to be located in Oregon;
 - Services or financial assistance to business or industry associations to promote, expand or prevent the decline of their businesses;

- Creating jobs;
- “Creating jobs” includes, but is not limited to:
 - Supporting the creation of new jobs in Oregon;
 - Helping prevent the loss of existing jobs in Oregon;
 - Assisting with work transition to new jobs in Oregon; or
 - Training or retraining workers.