

Commonwealth of Kentucky

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JOSH BRANSCUM
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
OFFICE (502) 564-8100
Josh.branscum@lrc.ky.gov



CAPITOL ANNEX
702 CAPITOL AVENUE
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY
40601

83RD HOUSE DISTRICT

TOLL-FREE MESSAGE LINE
1-800-372-7181

March 25, 2024

The Honorable James Comer
United States House of Representatives
2410 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Comer:

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Russell County Fiscal Court's request for FY 2025 Community Project Funding. The funds will be used for the development of a Regional Community Multiplex, the estimated cost of which comes in at just under \$20 million total.

The plan is to build this multiplex on 143 acres, in the heart of the Russell County community, directly off US Highway 127. The multiplex will feature both indoor and outdoor recreational, health, and wellness opportunities. The indoor complex will feature basketball, volleyball, and pickleball courts, a walking track, a sensory play area, and conference rooms complete with concessions and restrooms. The outdoor portion of the multiplex will boast soccer fields, a dog park, turf baseball fields, football fields, a walking track, a playground, concessions, restrooms, and an above-ground tornado shelter.

While Russell County has been labeled a "distressed county" by the Appalachian Regional Commission, the multiplex holds the key to boost sports tourism. Outdoor and indoor sports tourism can boost local businesses and strengthen the reputation of the community as a sports hub. This will attract participants, families, and spectators from nearby areas, generating revenue for the local community through accommodations, dining, transportation, and leisure activities. The multiplex will attract branded hotels, restaurants, and retail stores with priority given to U.S. veterans for employment at the multiplex. This type of venue is proven to significantly drive economic growth, increase health outcomes, increase surrounding real estate values, and cultivate a lifelong love of sports in children.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Branscum", written over a white background.

Josh Branscum
Kentucky State Representative
House District 83

JB/dl



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

STATE SENATE

March 7, 2024

Congressman Comer:

I am writing this letter of support on behalf of the Russell County Fiscal Court for FY2025 Community Project Funds in the amount of \$15 million to develop a regional community multiplex.

The county is in a unique position to unite the Lake Cumberland area for historical economic growth through sports tourism. The multiplex will offer a variety of sports, dog park, walking track, and playground. In addition, there are approximately 40 acres available to accommodate for drag strip racing. This project will entice hotels, restaurants, and retail which will generate revenue for the local community along with surrounding neighbors.

Thank you for your consideration of this request which will contribute to economic prosperity, a healthy lifestyle for my constituents, and cultivate a lifelong love of sports for future generations. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or if I may be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Girdler".

Rick Girdler
State Senator
District 15

RG/kl



P.O. BOX 247 • RUSSELL SPRINGS, KY 42642 • 270-866-3981 • FAX 270-866-3860

March 18, 2024

The Honorable James Comer
Congress of the United States
1st District, Kentucky Congressman
2410 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Comer

I am writing regarding the application submitted by the Russell County Fiscal Court for federal funding administered by the Economic Development Agency.

Funding this regional multiplex would completely change our County as well as surrounding Counties. This proposed 143 acres multiplex facility would offer indoor and outdoor opportunities for health and wellness and physical activity for people of every age, and also for people with disabilities. The outdoor facilities would include all youth league baseball and softball, we would also offer pickleball courts, football, and soccer fields, as well as walking trails and dog parks. The outdoor facility would also offer an inclusive sensory playground for children with special needs. The proposed indoor facility would have athletics courts, and space for the distribution of USDA commodities, and also offer an inclusive sensory playground for children with special needs.

As the Mayor of the City of Russell Springs, I am extremely supportive of this project. This project has been my main objective since becoming Mayor of the City of Russell Springs. When I was campaigning to become Mayor, the main question I heard was, WHY does our kids have to travel so far to enjoy any recreational facilities? This facility would afford people of all ages, and all income levels a place to go for safe recreational opportunities. This facility would also be a huge economic catalyst for our entire region.

I am confident funding this project would improve the quality of life for the people of Russell County and many surrounding counties. Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this project. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any additional assistance during this process.

Sincerely,



Mayor Eddie Thomas

City of Russell Springs



City of Jamestown

March 19, 2024

Honorable James Comer
Congress of the United States
1st District, Kentucky Congressman
2410 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Comer:

My name is Regena Hinton and I am currently the Mayor in Jamestown, Ky. Along with myself, Russell Springs Mayor Eddie Thomas and the Russell County Judge Executive, Randy Marcum we come together to work on a project that we feel would be a large asset to all the people in Russell and surrounding counties.

We are in search of funding to help support a regional multi-plex complex that would consist of indoor facilities and would house athletic courts such as, basketball, volleyball, pickle ball and an indoor skating rink. The indoor facility would also consist of a community room with kitchen facilities available, which seems to be a need for in our county.

The outdoor complex looks to bring over 50 acres in baseball, soccer, football and pickle ball courts along with a dog park and a walking track around the fields. There would also be a playground for kids, outdoor restrooms and a tornado shelter at the facility.

Russell County is widely known for its tourism, as we have the most beautiful and popular lake in the state and the Country. We are in need of hotels and restaurants to be able to accommodate all tourism coming into our county and also provide for numerous events that take place in our community along with many others that would take place here if we had ways to accommodate the needs they bring with them.

We feel this sports complex would be a great addition to bring more people into our community and would generate income. This would also support the local businesses that are currently open in our towns.

We have approximately 140 acres available in the middle of the Jamestown and Russell Springs to support this project. Upon getting support for funding you can be assured that as local authorities we are willing to work together, to put forth the effort into seeing this project come to Russell County and to bring many advancements to this beautiful area that we call home.

Any support that we can receive for this complex would be greatly appreciated.
Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Regena Hinton
Mayor of Jamestown

Equal Opportunity Provider

City Hall • P.O. Box 587 • Jamestown, KY 42629 • (270) 343-4594 • FAX (270) 343-4929 • TDD# 1-800-247-2510

Lake Cumberland Area Development District, Inc.

P.O. Box 1570, Russell Springs, Kentucky 42642-1570

WAYLON WRIGHT
Executive Director

MAYOR EDDIE THOMAS
Chairman

Ph: (270) 866-4200
FAX: (270) 866-2044
TDD: 1-800-646-6056

March 22, 2024

Honorable James Comer
Congress of the United States
1st District, Kentucky Congressman
2410 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Russell County Sports Multiplex

Dear Congressman Comer,

Lake Cumberland Area Development District wishes to express our support for the above-referenced project. We believe it will be a major driving force for economic development in Russell and surrounding counties.

Your favorable support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Waylon D. Wright

Executive Director



Adair • Casey • Clinton • Cumberland • Green
McCreary • Pulaski • Russell • Taylor • Wayne

Web-Site Address - <https://lcadd.org>
Equal Opportunity Provider





Russell County Chamber of Commerce · P.O. Box 64 · Russell Springs, KY 42642

Attention to: Honorable Congressman James Comer
Congress of the United States
1st District, Kentucky Congressman
2410 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

3/22/2024

Dear Honorable Congressman Comer,

As the counties chamber president, and someone who has lived in Russell county their whole life, I am very excited to provide this letter of support for the development of the Regional Community Benefit Multiplex in Russell County, Kentucky. I believe this multiplex will provide immediate benefits to all citizens in our region. Russell County is a "distressed county", and to have this multiplex would be the absolute key to boost recreation activities, tourism, jobs, investors, health, etc.

This proposed multiplex aims to create a multi-purpose facility that offers indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities. The outdoor facilities include a handicap accessible/sensory sensitive playground, 31 acres of turf baseball fields, 20 acres of football fields, soccer fields, tennis/pickleball courts, a dog park, a scenic walking track, gardens and 40 acres to accommodate sanctioned drag strip racing (that is also a canvas for regional and community events).

The indoor facilities house a walking track, courts for basketball, volleyball, tennis, pickleball and an inclusive indoor play area for young children. There will be conference rooms with concessions and restrooms available for public use. These amenities are so impressive and will attract individuals and families from near and far as the multiplex is a unique and highly desirable place for hosting events (such as conferences, tournaments and community events).

-As the chamber president, and someone who works in one of the main manufacturing plants in the county, the economic standpoint regarding this project is imperative. The multiplex has the potential to bring significant positive impacts to our distressed county. This will provide revenue through rental and admission possibilities. It will also provide excellent job opportunities not only



Russell County Chamber of Commerce · P.O. Box 64 · Russell Springs, KY 42642

when it is in operation, but also during the construction phase. One factor I see as a huge need and gift to be gained from this multiplex will be the attraction it provides for businesses and investors (branded hotels, restaurants and retail) to come to our region, leading to further economic growth and development.

-As a citizen of Russell County and a mother of two, the future this provides for families in this region are inevitable. The multiplex will showcase opportunities for people of all ages to be active, connect with nature, and nurture social connections. The health aspect of this is of high importance in this region as continuous exercise and outdoor recreation have been proven to improve physical and mental health.

This multiplex will undoubtedly be a huge impact on the area's recreation activities, tourism/economy, and on the health and wellbeing of all individuals and families near and far. I urge you to please support this initiative, and help this area work towards its continuous improvement, sustainability, and overall succession.

I look forward to seeing the positive impact this multiplex will have on our community. Thank you for your attention, and please let me know if you have any questions.

Loyally,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brittany Meece Stephens".

Brittany Meece Stephens
President, Russell County Chamber of Commerce

Russell County Board of Education



January 4, 2024

Dear Congressman Comer,

I am writing to express my full support for the development of the Regional Community Benefit Multiplex. As a long-time resident of this county and Superintendent of Russell County Schools I am an advocate for community engagement, I believe that this multiplex will provide numerous benefits to our citizens and enhance the overall quality of life in our region.

The proposed multiplex is an ambitious project that aims to create a multi-purpose facility that offers a wide range of both indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities. The plans include a handicap accessible/sensory sensitive playground for children of all abilities, 31 acres of turf baseball fields, 20 acres of football fields, soccer fields, pickleball courts, a dog park, and a scenic walking track. The outdoor amenities alone are impressive and will undoubtedly attract individuals and families from near and far.

In addition to the outdoor facilities, the multiplex will feature an indoor complex that houses a walking track, courts for basketball, volleyball, tennis, pickleball, and an inclusive indoor play area for young children. There will also be conference rooms with concessions and restrooms available for public use. This combination of indoor and outdoor spaces makes the multiplex unique and highly desirable for hosting a variety of events, such as sports tournaments, community gatherings, and business conferences.

From an economic standpoint, the development of the multiplex has the potential to bring significant positive impact to our distressed county. Not only will it generate revenue through event admissions and facility rentals, but it will also create job opportunities during the construction phase and for ongoing operations. Furthermore, the presence of a state-of-the-art recreational facility will likely attract businesses and investors to our region, leading to further economic growth and development.

Beyond the economic benefits, the multiplex will offer countless opportunities for people of all ages to engage in physical activity, connect with nature, and foster social connections. Regular exercise and outdoor recreation have been proven to improve physical and mental health, and the multiplex will provide a convenient and accessible space for our community members to engage in these activities. It will also serve as a hub for social interactions, bringing together individuals from diverse backgrounds and fostering a sense of belonging and unity.

404 South Main Street, Jamestown, KY 42629 • (270) 343-3191 • Fax: (270) 343-3072 • www.russell.kyschools.us

In conclusion, the Regional Community Benefit Multiplex is an exciting project that has the potential to transform our county and improve the lives of its residents. I urge you to support this initiative and work towards its successful implementation. Thank you for your attention, and I look forward to seeing the positive impact of the multiplex on our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration and please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Ford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "F".

Michael A. Ford, Superintendent
Russell County Schools



Lake Cumberland District Health Department

A Healthy Today for a Brighter Tomorrow

Executive Office

500 Bourne Avenue • Somerset, Kentucky 42501

Phone: 606-678-4761 • Fax: 606-676-9691

March 20, 2024

Mr. James Comer
Kentucky 1st Congressional District
United State of House of Representatives
200 North Main Street
Suite F
Tompkinsville, KY 42167

Congressman Comer,

I am writing a letter in support of the Regional Community Benefit Multiplex. The Regional Multiplex would provide numerous economic and health benefits to the citizens of the Lake Cumberland Area.

Public health plays an essential role in protecting and improving the health and lives of individuals, families and communities. The Regional Community Benefit Multiplex may serve as a catalyst in promoting healthy lifestyles across Russell County, as well as the Lake Cumberland Area.

The Regional Community Benefit Multiplex will provide numerous indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities for all ages. The multiplex will include eight (8) turf soft/baseball fields, four (4) batting cages, eight (8) dug outs, four (4) football and four (4) soccer fields, sixteen (16) tennis/pickleball courts, a dog park and a scenic walking track. In addition, there will be a handicap accessible/sensory sensitive playground for children of all abilities. All these amenities are sure to support economic prosperity and encourage health as a priority in many lives.

The community initiative would profoundly improve the economic and health affect this region. I look forward to seeing the positive impacts of the Regional Multiplex.

Regards,

Amy Tomlinson, Executive Director
Lake Cumberland District Health Department
500 Bourne Avenue, Somerset, KY 42501
(606)678-4761 ext. 1138
amyc.tomlinson@lcdhd.org



www.lcdhd.org

LCDHD County Health Centers

Adair • Casey • Clinton • Cumberland • Green • McCreary • Pulaski • Russell • Taylor • Wayne

Call (800) 928-4416

Hearing or speech impaired callers: call the Kentucky Relay Service at (800) 648-6056.
Give the communications assistant our phone number to contact us.





Lake Cumberland Regional
COLLEGE AND WORKFORCE CENTER

Honorable James Comer
Congress of the United States
1st District, Kentucky Congressman
2410 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

January 4, 2024

Congressman Comer:

As principal of the Lake Cumberland Regional College and Workforce Center, I, along with my staff, are committed to the growth and productivity of our community. It is with this in mind that I offer our full support to the Regional Community Benefit Multiplex.

As an administrator that works with high school students, I see firsthand the need for the development of projects such as this and know the positive impact this can have on the local community. Our local residents, specifically our student population, are desperate for activities that are alternatives to substance use and opportunities for sports, recreation and enjoyment. The acquisition of funding for the Regional Community Benefit Multiplex would be advantageous to not only this demographic, but for all local residents and businesses.

A facility such as this would help to boost the economy in our community, where many are living beneath the poverty line. The facility would prove to have multiple health benefits for all ages by allowing them a safe place to exercise and participate and many recreational activities.

At LCRCWC, our vision is to equip students with the skills needed for immediate work or for further training in all skilled trade areas. As a partner of this project, our students will be able to assist with the development of this multiplex park from the ground up. This collaboration would yield exponential benefits as students would be able to plan, develop, and enjoy all of the amenities of the completed project.



Lake Cumberland Regional
COLLEGE AND WORKFORCE CENTER

Through our various programs, we would be able to assist with parts of the development process such as the design, picnic areas, restroom construction, electrical work, and other potential areas. The ability to teach and instruct our students on “live work” projects that are applicable and meaningful to them, greatly increases engagement.

The staff of LCRCWC is happy and excited to collaborate with the Russell County Fiscal Court in this endeavor. We look forward to working together towards a common vision of better opportunities for all of Russell County.

Respectfully,

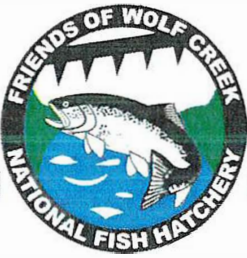
Sarah Roy

Principal

Lake Cumberland Regional College and Workforce Center

270-866-6175

Sarah.roy@russell.kyschools.us



Friends of Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery

The Friends of Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery, Inc. is in full support for the proposed Regional Multiplex. As a community partner, we are excited for this project that will attract visitors to our area and also provide opportunities for citizens of Russell County. As a support group for the Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, we are involved in different partnerships in the community, and we can envision the value of this multiplex as far-reaching. Outdoor experiences and being immersed in nature has proven to be educational, physically and mentally beneficial, and motivating.

Our organization is excited to help with plans for the pollinator gardens in the multiplex area. Seventy-five percent of the world's flowering plants and about 35 percent of the world's food crops depend on animal pollinators to reproduce. It's no secret that bees are disappearing and bats are dying. These and other animal pollinators face many challenges in the modern world. Habitat loss, disease, parasites, and environmental contaminants have all contributed to the decline of many species of pollinators. Pollinators that can't find the right quantity or quality of food (nectar and pollen from blooming plants within flight range) don't survive. Right now, there simply aren't enough pollinator friendly plantings to support pollinators. For these reasons, we are committed to helping bring pollinator gardens to the Regional Multiplex. Along with support from staff at Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery, we will provide resources, information, and guidance for planting successful pollinator gardens. The Friends of Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery will also provide monetary support to purchase native seeds for pollinator-friendly plants.

A pollinator garden placed in the Regional Multiplex will not only provide habitat for pollinators, but will provide a beautiful area for visitors to enjoy and learn about native plants and pollination. This can foster a love for plants, animals, and conservation. Educational signage could be placed around the garden to inform the public about the importance of pollinators.

We are excited about what the Regional Multiplex will bring to our community. Promoting outdoor activity and enjoyment of nature is something our organization can proudly support. Helping pollinators and educating the public about the importance of pollinators goes along with the mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which is "To work with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people." I encourage your department to approve this project and move forward with its implementation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

James Clark
President, Friends of Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery

50 Kendall Road * Jamestown, KY 42629 * 270-343-3797 (phone) * 270-343-2874 (fax)
www.friendsofwolfcreeknfh.com * friendsofwolfcreeknfh@gmail.com



51 Russell Dr, Russell Springs, KY, United States, Kentucky
(270) 866-9393
clubfitdanville@gmail.com

Honorable James Comer
Congress of the United States
1st District, Kentucky Congressman
2410 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Comer,

I am pleased and super anxious/ supportive to write you this letter with regards to the new Sports Complex facility for Russell County, KY.

Having been a part of youth sports from early childhood all the way to adulthood helped to form me into the man/ father and successful business owner I am today. The experience of individual perseverance and the importance of teamwork carried me through many other life experiences.

I was fortunate enough to play college baseball and professionally in the men's softball USSSA traveling the country seeing firsthand how much revenue and the economic impact these Sports Complexes have on local communities, and especially how they help to shape and form the lives of our children and their children eventually.

Currently, I own and operate a fitness facility in Russell Springs, KY called Club Fit and Salon for more than 18yrs, which helps introduce new and older seasoned fitness enthusiasts to achieve their health and wellness goals.

Weekly, if not daily, I get asked about expanding my services by putting in pickle ball courts and more outdoor activities for the members. I would love to be able to do this, but with today's economy, I don't have the funds or acreage to expand my business.

If this project is funded, it will benefit my customers and so many local people/ business owners in the community and surrounding counties. The economic benefits will be huge for our area as consumers buy local goods such as food, gas, hotels etc... the trickledown effect will be mind-blowing as I have witnessed firsthand over the course of my career.

Hopefully, my personal testimony of how youth sports was the catalyst that propelled me into professional baseball and then to accomplish, as an adult, the courage to open my own wellness center, will shape a supportive decision on getting funds. Had I not had the opportunity to play youth sports, my life could be very different today. In the day of drugs and alcohol abuse kids and even adults need a healthy alternative and we at Club Fit offer that. How amazing it would be if the Lake Cumberland Multiplex could offer the same alternatives.

I want to thank you for your time to listen to our local small businesses and individuals that this will have a huge impact on.

Sincerely,
Landon Helm, Owner /Operator Club Fit



For Promotion, Promulgation and Perpetuation of Amateur Baseball
Established in 1914

Honorable James Comer
Congress of the United States
1st District, Kentucky Congressman
2410 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Honorable Comer:

The National Amateur Baseball Federation (NABF) is pleased to issue this letter of full support for the Regional Community Benefit Multiplex project in Russell County. As the oldest continuously operating youth baseball organization in the United States, the NABF has a long-standing tradition of supporting the growth and development of youth baseball throughout the United States. The benefits of keeping our nation's youth active, not only through baseball, but in all sports and recreation, are tantamount to keeping our country's youth healthy and engaged.

The multiplex proposal is a very creative project that will offer many varied opportunities for both indoor and outdoor activities. These activities will serve people and families of all ages. Included in the plans for the park, besides eight (8) turfed baseball fields for ages 6U and up are four (4) footballs fields, four (4) soccer fields, sixteen (16) pickle ball courts, concessions, a dog park, a scenic walking track, pollinator gardens, restrooms, ample parking, and an inclusive handicapped accessible sensory playground for children. These facilities alone would attract many people to the complex, but to have all of these at one location would be an opportunity for Russell County to become a tourist and vacation destination for families far and wide.

There will be opportunities for Russell County to attract new businesses because of the Multiplex. These new businesses will not only bring much needed tax revenue to the county, but they will also be able to offer jobs to the local community and surrounding areas. These jobs will come from the construction of the Multiplex, the service sector of the Multiplex, such as hotels and restaurants, and from the running of the Multiplex itself, just to name a few. These types of facilities have been very successful in other parts of the country and have driven economic growth in those areas.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this project. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Derek J. Topik
Executive Director
National Amateur Baseball Federation

NATIONAL AMATEUR BASEBALL FEDERATION

P.O. Box 4099 • Brandon, Mississippi 39047 • (769) 251-5158 • www.nabf.com • Email: nabfexecdirector@gmail.com





National Fitness Campaign Letter of Intent
March 19, 2024

Dear Congressman Comer,

RE: Letter of Intent to Award Grant Eligibility to Russell County, KY

On behalf of the National Fitness Campaign (NFC) Grant Committee, it is with enthusiasm that we express our intent to support a partnership with Russell County, KY and award the agency grant eligibility towards participation as a leading healthy community in Kentucky.

National Fitness Campaign is a wellness consulting firm that develops partnerships with municipalities and schools to build healthy communities. This year the 500th Healthy Community will join the campaign, and alongside over a dozen of America's largest Health Insurance Companies, we are facilitating public-private partnerships that deliver healthy infrastructure and make world-class outdoor fitness opportunities free for every community.

The Campaign, in concert with municipalities, schools, and major healthcare organizations, delivers a comprehensive community wellness program that is based around the Fitness Court[®], the world's best outdoor gym. The Fitness Court[®] is supported by a wide range of tools and services to support communities in activating the Fitness Court[®] and driving local health outcomes. Tools and services include consulting and design services, education and promotional tools, and complimentary public fitness programming, designed to facilitate long-term engagement in healthy habits. This program is delivered in the name of public and private partners who contribute funding and resources to bring it to each community.

Each year the Campaign provides millions of dollars worth of grant funding to support a limited number of community and school partners in building a Fitness Court and joining the Campaign. Russell County, KY has expressed their support and intent to join the Campaign and have identified an exceptional location that will drive local impact for the Fitness Court[®] and Campaign, along with consensus from local leadership for participation. To secure grant eligibility in this year's Campaign, Russell County is looking for local community partners to support their efforts in securing the local funding match necessary to launch their Campaign. An initial funding match must be secured prior to NFC awarding official grant eligibility.

The National Fitness Campaign and the Russell County, KY share a common goal, which is to enhance the quality of life for its community, foster improved health, and promote sustainable development. Through collaborative efforts and combined resources, we believe that we can achieve remarkable outcomes that will benefit the Russell County community.

We appreciate Russell County's enthusiasm to support this mission, and have set aside conditional Grant Funding in the amount of \$30,000 to be awarded upon acquisition of minimum local matching funding for Grant Award and partnership. If you have any questions surrounding the Campaign please do not hesitate to reach out to us via our website at www.nationalfitnesscampaign.com.

Best Regards,

Trent Matthias, Campaign Director



Bridging Local & County Leaderships

Building the Future



March 22, 2024

Dear Congressman Comer,

The constituents of Russell County are in a unique position to close generational and economic gaps that have overshadowed Russell County since the formation of the two cities within the county government. Historically, the three entities have lacked the opportunity or leadership to utilize resources and work as one. However, Russell County Judge Executive Randy Marcum along with Mayor Eddie Thomas of Russell Springs and Mayor Regena Hinton of Jamestown have a rare window of opportunity to unite the three for historical growth to develop a ***Small- Market Sports Tourism Regional Community Multiplex***.

Located in the heart of the community, directly off US Hwy 127, this multiplex will feature both indoor and outdoor recreational, health & wellness opportunities housed on 143 acres of prime land. The outdoor complex will boast (31) acres of turf baseball fields, (20) acres of football, soccer fields, pickleball courts, dog park, scenic walking track, inclusive sensory playground, concessions, and restrooms with an above ground tornado shelter. The indoor complex will feature a walking track, courts for basketball, volleyball, pickleball, distribution of USDA commodities, community kitchen, inclusive sensory play area & conference rooms complete with concessions and restrooms.

The Appalachian Regional Commission has labeled Russell County as a ***"Distressed County"*** (FY 2024). This administration understands the urgent need to act now in transitioning the stigma from distress to ***"Attainment County."*** Outdoor and Indoor Sports tourism can boost local businesses and "strengthen the reputation of the community as a sports hub." (FORBES) This attracts participants, families, and spectators from regions, generating revenue for the local community through accommodations, dining, transportation, and leisure activities.

The fruition of this project will be the catalyst to attract branded hotels, restaurants and retail with priority given to our U.S Veterans for employment of the multiplex. The estimated price tag of this venture comes in just under \$20,000,000. However, this phase is requesting \$15,000,000 for the outdoor project.

In closing, few structures have the sustaining effect on communities as sports, recreation, and an event facility. These venues are proven to significantly drive economic growth, increase health outcomes, increase surrounding real estate values, and cultivate a lifelong love of sports in children. We ask on behalf of 17,995 residents of Russell County and the 206,592 citizens that make up the south-central region of Kentucky for your support to make this project a reality.

Thank you,

Randy Marcum
Russell County Judge Executive