



February 10, 2022

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Sub-Committee on Capital Construction
Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair
Representative Paul Holvey, Co-Chair

Senator Girod, Representative Holvey and Members of the Sub-Committee,

We are thrilled to provide a letter of support and encourage your investment in the Eugene Emeralds Stadium within the Lane County Fairgrounds revitalization project.

By way of background, Onward Eugene is a economic development non-profit dedicated to the mission of Prosperity for All. We accomplish this mission through our four focus areas: business retention and expansion, regional marketing and business recruitment, workforce development and startup business support.

Our community is at risk of losing the Eugene Emeralds, a minor league baseball team that calls Eugene home. The Eugene Emeralds are a vibrant local business that employs hundreds of local residents throughout the year. Not only are we at risk of losing a major employer and economic driver, we are also at risk of losing a beloved community institution that draws people to our community from across the region and provides entertainment that improves our quality of life.

Major League Baseball has told the Emeralds that if they don't build a stadium to their standards by 2024, the team will be moved to another community or cease to exist at all, resulting in lost jobs, local vendor revenue, and culture.

An economic impact analysis completed by EcoNorthwest in the fall of 2021 indicated that building a new stadium that would satisfy the requirements of Major League Baseball could broaden our local economy for years to come as it has the opportunity to host not only baseball, but a variety of year round events that will bring economic activity to the Lane County. EcoNorthwest estimates that year round operations of a new stadium would generate \$31.68M in annual economic output.

Lane County has enthusiastically agreed to work with the Eugene Emeralds to try to accommodate a new stadium, as an anchor tenant, in a revitalized Lane County Fairgrounds. This proposed public-private partnership could be made possible with \$15M in state assistance that would be matched by our local community and the Eugene Emeralds to reach the \$60M investment needed to save our beloved Ems and bring this project to life.

I am respectfully requesting that you recommend funding this multi-use facility that significantly updates the Lane County Fairgrounds, keeps the Eugene Emeralds in the Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area, preserves culture, and provides significant economic prosperity for our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Sayre". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matt Sayre
Managing Director, Onward Eugene