



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF EMERALD VALLEY**

May 3, 2023

Dear co-chairs Sen. Steiner and Rep. Sanchez, and members of the Ways and Means committee,

It is important to not only spend taxpayer dollars wisely, but ideally get a return on investment. A project that accomplishes both is investing funds to build and operate a multi-use facility (stadium) at the Lane Events Center grounds that would be home to the Eugene Emeralds baseball team and serve our community and region for a wide range of community enhancing experiences.

The Eugene Emeralds are more than just a baseball team, they are a valued community partner. Team ownership, staff, and players have a 70-year track record for investing team resources in our community to help make it a better place to live. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Emerald Valley believe the proposed new facility will enhance the Emeralds involvement in the community and ability to give back to Lane County and its citizens for another 70+ years.

The Boys & Girls Club has been fortunate to partner with the Emeralds on numerous occasions and utilize their facility for fundraising and community events. The Em's leadership is extremely community minded and creative and will use the multi-use facility to host community events, concerts, public gatherings, baseball, and more.

The Em's have hosted numerous community events at PK Park (current facility) with over 1,000 civic minded community members participating in one night. We are confident this new facility will be utilized for larger and more community engagement year-round and improve the lives of thousands of children and adults each year. This project does benefit the Eugene Emeralds, but it equally benefits the community because of the Em's dedication to their community and desire to be more than just a baseball team, they want to be an agent for good in their community.

If the Emeralds do not have a new facility by 2024, Major League Baseball will relocate the team. Not having the Emeralds in our community would be an unnecessary and tragic loss to Lane County and Oregon, not to mention the significant loss of economic opportunity and tourism dollars they bring to our area. Please support prioritizing funding the multi-use facility at the Lane Events Center grounds for its community impact and return on investment.

Sincerely,

Matt Sorensen

Chief Executive Officer

Boys & Girls Clubs of Emerald Valley