



February 10, 2022

Dear Co-Chair Holvey, Co-Chair Girod, and Members of the Sub-Committee.,

I was excited to learn that Lane County Commissioners were considering a multi-use facility at the Lane Events Center. I believe such a facility is needed in our community for a wide variety of uses; most importantly, to give the Eugene Emeralds a place to call home.

As anchor tenants of the multi-use facility, the Emeralds will bring stability to this endeavor. The Emeralds are already such a vital part of our community - beyond just a baseball team. They are always the first to arrive when there is a need. I was able to witness that firsthand, as they worked alongside the area school districts and education foundations, along with other individuals and organizations, to ensure that students and their families were safe and supported throughout distance and hybrid learning. I am confident that their influence and reach into the community was one of the reasons that the response to our donation drives was overwhelmingly successful.

We also worked with the Emeralds in the leadup to our virtual event last year. Anne Culhane, the Emeralds' Director of Community Relations, and Sluggo, the Emeralds' mascot, helped us to distribute items ordered by our supporters prior to the event. It was a big treat for young and old alike to have Sluggo walk their order to their vehicles, and seeing the smiles on their faces was a welcome sight.

The Emeralds also held mask drives for our schools. Supporters who bought Emeralds-themed masks knew that a mask would also be donated to 4J students. The students who received these masks were so excited to have Emeralds memorabilia. It was a winning endeavor, all around.

The Emeralds team ownership, staff, and players have a 70-year track record for investing their resources in our community. I believe that this new facility will allow Emeralds' involvement in the community to grow even more. Lane County only stands to benefit from giving the Emeralds a new home. It would be a worthy investment.

If the Emeralds don't have a new place to play by 2024, Major League Baseball will move the team. It would be a shame to lose this community asset to another place. I ask that you support the proposed multi-use facility for inclusion in the master plan for the Lane Events Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana B. Fleming". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dana B. Fleming
Executive Director