



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,

The Lane County Fairgrounds and the Eugene Emeralds are the cornerstones for summertime entertainment that brings urban and rural Lane County residents together as a community. Both organizations are facing tough decisions that will greatly impact their relevance as community treasurers.

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 entertainment options.

The continued budget drain to maintain the aging buildings and infrastructure at the Lane County Fairgrounds has been well-documented and reported. In its current condition, the Fairgrounds will continue to struggle to maximize the opportunities to provide the year-round entertainment and employment that county residents want and expect from a public venue.

There is a solution, but we need your help. A proposed public-private partnership that could transform a key property in the heart of our community 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. The economic impact of this team and of a new facility is significant, losing the team would be devastating to our community.

With these investments the Lane County Fairgrounds would benefit from the Eugene Emeralds as an anchor tenant for a revitalized fairground. The building would satisfy the new Major League Baseball requirements, but it would provide so much more economic and cultural opportunity to our community. The property could serve as a hub for disaster response and mass evacuations, it opens new opportunities for year-round entertainment and community uses including serving as a venue for youth baseball and softball, tournaments, concerts, meetings, and other events that attracts locals and brings people to the Eugene-Springfield area from the region throughout the year.

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, and provides revenue-generating events year-round.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brittany Quick-Warner".

Brittany Quick-Warner  
President & CEO, Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce