



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF EMERALD VALLEY

February 10, 2022

Dear co-chairs Sen. Girod and Rep. Holvey, and members of the sub-committee,

Thank you for considering investing additional funding to help the Eugene Emeralds build and operate their creative and sustainable multi-use facility at the Lane Events Center grounds that would be home to the 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 during our 23 years of service. For over 10 years, Allan Benavides, the General Manager, has given his time and treasure to serve as a Club Board Member and fundraiser. Additionally, the Em's served as a venue and host to the Club's Field of Dreams fundraiser at PK Park from 2016 to 2019. Field of Dreams comprises over 1/3 of the Club's annual operating revenue and hosts over 300 civic minded community members at the stadium. We are confident this level of community engagement will continue and improve the lives of thousands of children and adults each year thanks to the Eugene Emeralds 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.

As you know, if the Emeralds do not have a new facility by 2024, Major League Baseball will move 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. We ask that you support their additional funding request and help provide additional resources to turn this vision into an impactful community reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Sorensen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Matt Sorensen

Chief Executive Officer

Boys & Girls Clubs of Emerald Valley