



LANE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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February 11, 2021

Joint Ways and Means Committee
Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Oregon Legislature
Salem OR 97301

Dear Co-Chair Holvey, Co-Chair Girod, and Members of the Subcommittee:

Among the many requests for capital funding you are considering is one titled "Lane County Fairgrounds Multi-Use Public Facility". We write today to urge your support of this request.

Every County in Oregon has a fairgrounds and these sites, along with the State's Fairgrounds, enjoy an extensive history. Yet as you know Fairground operations are primarily fee supported and capital improvements are difficult to undertake.

Over the years, the Lane County Board of Commissioners has evaluated a number of proposals to bring more visitors to the site while improving the experience that visitors have. The proposal you have in front of you, based on a partnership between Lane County and the Eugene Emeralds ball club, represents nothing short of a transformational investment.

The facility will draw new visitor to our region, create new jobs, and enhance the Fairgrounds role in terms of public safety and public health functions it provides. It further will enhance future investments on the site that will cement the Lane Events Center's ability to operate as a regional conference and convention center.

This opportunity is truly unique. The Eugene Emeralds must demonstrate to Major League Baseball that they have a new stadium to play in that aligns with the League's requirements for affiliate teams. We are prepared to provide such a facility and seek your partnership with us.

The Eugene Emeralds play baseball in many venues across our state, and create an associated economic benefit wherever they play. Oregon will lose that impact unless a new stadium is constructed.

Sincerely,

Pat Farr, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners