



# LANE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Heather Buch  
Ryan Ceniga  
Pat Farr  
David Loveall  
Laurie Trieger

May 3, 2023

Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Co-Chair Senator Elizabeth Steiner  
Co-Chair Representative Tawna Sanchez  
Oregon Legislature  
Salem, Oregon

Dear Co-Chair Steiner, Co-Chair Sanchez, and Vice-Chairs, Girod, Gomberg, and Smith:

As part of its Legislative Priorities for the current Legislative Assembly, the Lane County Board of Commissioners included a \$7.5M general fund request to support the construction of a multi-purpose facility to be located on the footprint of the Lane Events Center in Eugene. This request would fulfill the \$15M request we made to the Legislature in 2022 for the facility, as you previously provided \$7.5M general fund for the project in HB 5202 (2022).

Since the passage of HB 5202, we have accomplished the following:

- A collaboration with the Eugene Emeralds baseball team that has led to contracts with design and engineering professionals to hone project costs, including a design charrette with the TallWood Institute to explore ways to integrate advanced wood manufacturing.
  - Includes a \$10M up front project commitment from the team.
- A \$1.5M federal investment via the FY '23 budget bill signed into law by President Biden in December, 2022.
  - This funding will be used to ensure the facility is built to a high seismic standard such that it will be immediately utilized in the event of a severe earthquake.
- In September, 2022 the Board of Commissioners voted in support of Ordinance 22-07 to increase both the transient lodging tax and the vehicle rental tax by 2% in support of tourism related facilities in Lane County.
  - That revenue will be used for bonding purposes to raise \$40M towards the project.
- In April, 2023 United States Senators Merkley and Widen put forth an additional \$1.5M FY '24 request to support the project's seismic preparedness function.

This facility will be an important local project with regional impact. The multi-use facility will be the largest publicly accessible outdoor entertainment venue between Portland and Sacramento on the I-5 corridor, and serve as a focal point for youth, university, and minor league baseball, concerts, and both regional and local events. Your support of this project will help Oregon cement its reputation as a destination for sporting events, while further building a sports economy and industry in this state.

Sincerely,

Chair, Board of Lane County Commissioners