Submitter: Joe Karcher

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Measure: SB5506

Hello, I am Joe Karcher and I have been a resident of Eugene for 33 years. I moved to Eugene in 1990 to franchise Carl's Jr. restaurants in Lane County. Initially we struggled for many years, but over time we began to be successful. Since getting past the difficult years and having some years of success, I have been fortunate enough to able to also have such brands as Jersey Mike's Subs, The Human Bean Coffee and Dave's Hot Chicken.

I am here to give my strong support for building a new multi-purpose stadium at the Lane County Fairgrounds. This will be a much needed economic boost to the local business community. As we all know, the pandemic caused many local businesses to suffer, and many have yet to fully recover. This year-round facility for concerts, games, tournaments and local gatherings will bring statewide visitors that will spur on retail development and create jobs.

I, like many other businesses in the area give back to the community in many ways. We have donated significant dollars to such charities, as Food For Lane County, Catholic Community Services and several others. By bringing additional businesses growth to this area, will allow these businesses, along with existing businesses, to give more support to such charities.

The Eugene Ems are a very important member of the community. They also give tremendous support to numerous local charities. Their popularity within the community is extremely strong. As a sponsor of the Oregon Ducks, I have season tickets for most all Duck sporting events. I am also a sponsor and season ticket holder for the Ems. These tickets are offered to my employees for their personal use, and I can say that without a doubt, that the Ems tickets are the most popular tickets for my employees.

So I am asking, please help bring the remaining needed funds for this multi-purpose stadium to the finish line. Thank you.

Joe Karcher
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