

Submitter: Jameson Auten
On Behalf Of: Eugene Emeralds
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Good evening Co-Chairs Steiner and Sanchez and Co-Vice Chairs Girod and Gomberg. For the record, I am Jameson Auten, Lane Transit District's Chief Executive Officer. LTD provides transit service to the greater Eugene-Springfield area.

Tonight, I am here to ask the committee to support the Eugene Emeralds request to help fund the construction of a new multi-use facility at the Lane County Fairgrounds.

Additional state Investment in the multi-use facility helps to ensure that a 70-year old active community member, The Eugene Emeralds baseball club, stays in Eugene. While I have only served as LTD's CEO for six months, the Emeralds were a pride point that community leaders made to me and my family many times during my interviews in Eugene last summer.

I believe a new multi-use facility is more than about keeping the Emeralds in Eugene, so I encourage you to look at a bigger, brighter future that the new facility will bring to the area. With an additional state Investment the community keeps jobs and family entertainment that the Emeralds provide, but the new facility also will bring concerts, shows, high school events, and entertainment to our area that delivers additional jobs, visitor dollars, and community vibrancy that currently skips over Eugene-Springfield to other communities along the I-5 corridor and throughout the state.

There are many urgent needs that attract attention at budget time. The future is oftentimes one of those needs that gets lost in the mix. Supporting the multi-use facility is a vote for today, but most importantly it is a vote for the future. It is a vote for opportunities that an exciting, new facility can help build our local economy and contribute to our local tax base, necessary to support so many needed services in our area. It's a vote to keep an important community partner in Eugene. Supporting the multi-use facility is vote for economic and social doors our community has yet to open.

I ask for your support for additional funding for the multi-use facility at the Lane County Fairgrounds.