



May 3, 2023

Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Chair Steiner and Chair Sanchez,

I am writing on behalf of the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce to express our strong support and encourage you to recommend investment in the multi-use facility anchored by the Eugene Emeralds within the Lane County Fairgrounds revitalization project that could also serve as a part of our emergency response infrastructure.

The Lane County Fairgrounds and the Eugene Emeralds are the cornerstones for community entertainment that brings urban and rural Lane County residents together. Both are facing tough decisions that will greatly impact their relevance as community treasures.

Major League Baseball has told the Emeralds that if they don't build a stadium to their standards by 2024, the team will be moved to another community or cease to exist at all, resulting in hundreds of lost jobs, local vendor revenue, and entertainment options.

The continued budget drain to maintain the aging buildings and infrastructure at the Lane County Fairgrounds has been well-documented and reported. In its current condition, the Fairgrounds will continue to struggle to maximize the opportunities to provide the year-round entertainment and employment that county residents want and expect from a public venue.

As if investing in these two community cornerstones wasn't enough, the development of a multi-use facility on the Lane County Fairgrounds property has the potential to be a real win-win-win for our community as it will be built to immediate occupancy standards which will allow it to be used by our entire region as an emergency shelter in the case of a major earthquake, wildfire, or other disaster. A facility like this is desperately needed in our community and will serve as a critical piece of emergency preparedness infrastructure for when, not if, a disaster strikes.

We need your help. A proposed public-private partnership that could transform a key property in the heart of our community could be made possible with an additional funding from the Oregon Legislature to help reach the total investment needed to save our beloved Ems, protect our community members, and bring this project to life. The economic impact of this team and of a new facility is significant, losing the team would be devastating to our community.

I am respectfully requesting that you recommend \$7.5M in funding for this multi-use facility that significantly updates the Lane County Fairgrounds, keeps the Eugene Emeralds in the Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area, and provides a critical safe-haven for residents in our region.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brittany Quick-Warner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "Q".

Brittany Quick-Warner

President & CEO, Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce