

Co-Chair Holvey, Co-Chair Girod, and Members of the Committee the reason I support is more than keeping the Eugene Emeralds, Lane County and Eugene are lacking the funds to operate, to do the job and at present no means to generate the funds. This public facility is a way to address this need. The funding that the County needs to build the facility is the grunt work of Elmore Sports Group who owns the Eugene Emeralds. Allan Benavides, the General Manager for the past four years has been working to keep the EMS in Eugene since the MLB has decided the stadiums must meet certain requirements, which in the EMS case means a new stadium, the present stadium does not meet the requirements and is owned by the University of Oregon. Under Allan the Emeralds have become a strong member of this community, not only in the season but also the off season. What is proposed will benefit this community and not just the Eugene Emeralds. As mentioned they are raising the funds so the County can build the stadium, the County will then lease the Stadium to the Elmore Sports Group. The county will be able to use the stadium during the season when the EMS are not using and in the off season they will have a stadium that can be used for a variety of events. This project is going to benefit the City as well as the County, at a time that both need a way to fund the needs of the County and the City. The only other way for the City and the County to address the lack of funds is to Tax, and we all know that is the last thing that we all want.

When have you seen such a request, where the needs of the County and the City are being addressed from a private industry. The County will be in charge of building the stadium, but the funds to build the stadium is what Elmore Sports Group is doing. Lane County is providing a place for the Stadium, Lane County Fairgrounds, they have the land and so no money coming from the County and the land that will have the Stadium will be generating funds the County needs.

The Eugene Emeralds have been around seventy years, but from 2010 when Allan became the General Manager, from the first day, he wanted the EMS to be a part of the Community, they were not prior to. The list of what Allan and his Staff do for the community is long, and now faced with the need for a new Stadium, not their choice, but MLB, and to present a way that benefits this community.

These are tough times, homelessness, affordable housing, and the list goes on. What is needed is a place to take a break from reality, Civic Stadium where the EMS played for forty years was built during the depression in order to give the people a place to forget the daily troubles, even for a short time, and it was affordable. This is what Eugene Emeralds give, Affordable Family Entertainment, and there is not that in Eugene, you can say we have the Fair, four days, and that is not affordable.

Think outside of the box, the Elmore Sports Group has, they know the County and City need funding, they need a Stadium, so why not present a proposal that meets both needs, this is what it means to be a part of the community, the EMS are well woven in this community and show it year around, and what they are asking is proven this.

Bottom line the County and the City need funds, at present they don't know how, the Elmore Sports Group has presented a means which will help in the funds needed and the Elmore Sports Group will have a Stadium, and stay in Eugene and continue to provide Family Affordable Entertainment, It is a Win-Win proposition.