

TERESA AYERS

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Honorable Co-Chair Holvey, Co-Chair Girod, and Members of the Committee,

Though I don't remember my age when I attended my first Ems game, the experience has stayed with me throughout my life. I remember the anticipation and excitement. I remember the box of Cracker Jacks and the ice cream. I remember the sense of community as we cheered with and high-fived with those around us....complete strangers who became our neighbors for those few hours. I remember the complete joy I felt that day. And, I remember the dread I felt each time I had to go to the dentist would be temporarily lifted as we passed Civic Stadium just before turning into the parking lot.

Those fond memories led me and my husband to take our daughter to numerous Ems games over the years. Now an adult, she still has the ball she received from an encounter with Sluggo as a child.

I'm certain my experience with the Ems is not unique - there are certainly tens of thousands of individuals out there from over the decades. But my point is this: the Eugene Emeralds not only regularly give back to our community in countless ways, they have fostered joy and life-long memories. They bring a sense of oneness during this current us vs. them environment. It would be a travesty for families and individuals (young and old) to no longer have this opportunity.

I implore you to support the Lane County Multi-Use Public Facility. A new facility would not only ensure the Ems remain in our community, it would provide a venue for a variety of events and be a catalyst for increased revenue in the city of Eugene.

Respectfully,

Teresa Ayers