



MEDFORD

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

TO: Ways & Means Capitol Construction Committee
FROM: Medford City Council
RE: Emeralds Baseball in Medford
DATE: May 9, 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you information about the City of Medford's efforts to "Keep Oregon Emerald Green"!

The Emeralds Baseball Team was an incredible asset to the community and the economy in Lane County, but voters decided other sports would prevail and denied the team funding for the new stadium that MLB needed for the minor league team to stay. Medford wants to keep the team in Oregon and has engaged in an effort to build them a stadium in the city and allow the citizens to reap all the benefits that come with a minor league baseball team.

The Elmore Sports Group owns five minor-league baseball teams (Eugene Emeralds, Inland Empire 66ers, Amarillo Sod Poodles, San Antonio Missions, and Lynchburg Hillcats), and two professional hockey teams (Utah Grizzlies and Idaho Falls Spud Kings). The company views Medford as a promising location for a new home due to its rapid growth, its enthusiasm for recreation and high-quality sports facilities, and its strategic location as the regional hub for southern Oregon and northern California.

We believe the Emeralds can help Medford achieve key civic goals aligned with the Medford 2040 Vision and Action Plan, specifically in the areas of Fostering Economic Growth and Resiliency; Enhancing Hometown Appeal; Connecting Community; and Promoting Recreation Opportunities. Currently affiliated with the San Francisco Giants as their full-season High-A affiliate, the Emeralds are one of the oldest and most successful minor-league teams in the West. Their presence would bring significant value to Medford, including millions in local and visitor spending annually.

A critical component of this relocation is the development of a stadium that complies with Major League Baseball's facility requirements. We intend to ask voters for support, likely through a Transient Lodging Tax increase, in the amount of \$50 million. We have private funding pending at \$20 million. We are asking for the State to help us by dedicating \$15 million to the new stadium.

Thank you for your consideration.

Michael Zarosinski
Mayor, City of Medford

Robert Field
City Manager, City of Medford