



February 4, 2022

Senate President Courtney
House Speaker Rayfield
Ways and Means Co-Chairs Senator Steiner-Hayward and Representative Sanchez
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Subject: City of Eugene Supports the Eugene Emeralds

I am writing to you to express my support and that of the Eugene City Council in efforts to keep the Eugene Emeralds in Eugene and to seek your assistance in helping in this effort.

As you may know, the Eugene Emeralds, a longtime and beloved pillar of our community, have attained a new Major League Baseball (MLB) status that affords them a longer season and more security. At the same time, that new status and the increased requirements from MLB for affiliate teams, does not allow for the use of the University of Oregon's PK Park. The Emeralds must demonstrate a viable facility to MLB under this new framework or lose their affiliation in its entirety by the summer 2023 season.

After an extensive search, the Emeralds sought a partnership with Lane County to develop a multi-purpose facility on an undeveloped portion of the Lane County Fairgrounds. Both Lane County and the Eugene Emeralds have committed resources for the new multi-use facility. Support from the State of Oregon is necessary for this private-public partnership to build a facility that could serve the region. According to an ECONorthwest analysis, the stadium project would result in \$66M in income tax revenue for Oregon over the next ten years.

During this 2022 Legislative Session, Lane County has made a request to the Legislature for \$15 million that would help complete the budget necessary to construct this facility. The Eugene City Council adopted a motion to 'Support keeping the Eugene Emeralds in Eugene', during its November 22, 2021 meeting. In keeping with that direction, we ask that you support Lane County's request for bonding authority this year.

Thank you for your consideration and please support keeping the Eugene Emeralds in Eugene!

Sincerely,

Mayor Lucy Vinis