



Office of Mayor Vera Katz  
City of Portland

August 24, 2004

Dear Committee Members and other Interested Parties,

Enclosed is an all-encompassing report on Portland's bona fides for a Major League Baseball franchise, including our Finance Plan and updated Site Cost Study. This report should dismiss any doubts about Portland, Oregon. We are well prepared to attract an MLB team, with conditions beneficial for both Portland and a prospective owner/operator.

Portland, Oregon is routinely hailed as one of the nation's most livable and vibrant cities. We have many qualities that are second to none in the U.S., from our light rail transit system to our parks and open spaces. Most recently, the newly created Pearl District has captured national attention as a dynamic retail, residential and business development neighborhood that is a beacon to both our local community and visitors. Soon, the South Waterfront project along the Willamette River will follow the Pearl's example as a model for mixed-use development.

As opposed to many other localities seeking a new professional sports franchise, the work contained in this report is not a means to elevate Portland to major league status. *We are* major league. All the more reason I am convinced that we would quickly become one of baseball's best places -- for an owner, for our city's and state's fans, and for the business of baseball.

I am confident that this report will leave you with the knowledge that Portland's qualities and characteristics as a market – and completion of this Finance Plan – make it a success story waiting to happen.

We hope to see you in Portland soon, behind home plate.

With warm regards,

Vera Katz  
Mayor