

Submitter: KL Wombacher  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure: SB5506

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Steiner and Representative Sanchez,  
I am writing in lieu of speaking yesterday at the PCC event given how many speakers were signed up and the limited time. Thank you for taking the time to do your roadshow event and go out to listen to community members. Yesterday was eye opening to see just how many important issues you face as you prioritize limited resources.

My testimony is in support of our request for \$25 million dollars toward a new stadium located in Hillsboro. Since announcing the news last month, the support for the venue has been overwhelming. Our community wants and needs a new gathering place that is welcoming, inclusive, and most importantly, affordable. This new venue will serve as the home of the Hillsboro Hops guaranteeing a future of 66 minor league baseball games with the focus on affordable family entertainment. This new venue will also draw events to the region that are currently not coming here because we don't have a good enough facility to be competitive in attracting them. We are at 10% design for this venue and it is going to cost \$120 million. The Hops have committed up to \$72 million which is the maximum we can stretch. The City of Hillsboro has committed \$18 million from their transient lodging tax. The \$25 million from the state will complete the funding plan and allow this facility to become a reality for our community. Without the State's investment, there won't be enough money to proceed and the future of MLB will be put in risk because we don't meet facility standards anymore.

We fully understand there is a lot of competition for capital projects with very limited resources.

To move our way up your priority list, we hope this statement is a compelling differentiator:

This venue is about bringing community together and quality of life. Two incredibly important things that took a major hit in 2020 and continue to be a struggle for so many people. We have always known the benefit of bringing people together in person for shared experiences. Events that give us the sense of community no matter where we come from, how much money we make, what religion we believe in, or what our political views are. This new venue will host a variety of events year round that will attract people from all over the region and state to come together for shared experiences. We need this in our community and the Hops are committed to invest \$70+ million to make it happen. As our owner put it in his testimony yesterday, we've never been in this business to maximize profit. Our operating history demonstrates that. You won't find a minor league team in the entire Country willing to invest this kind of money in a facility they won't even own, This is personal to us, We live here and we're committed to building community. We need your help to make

this happen though. Please strongly consider investing in this publicly owned facility so it becomes a reality for 2025. We will be ready to break ground this September so the \$190 million in construction economic impact happens immediately. You will have a lot of tough decisions to make, but I can guarantee you won't regret investing in this project. This is the right project at the right time. Our decisions now will provide decades of memories, shared experiences, and quality time together as a community.

Most funding requests will have a strong economic story and our project certainly has that. However, no other project will compete with what this new venue is going to bring to quality of life though. We guarantee that.

Thank you very much for your time reading this and thank you for all the incredible work you do to make this state the best place to live, work, and raise a family.

Best Regards,

K.L. Wombacher  
President, Hillsboro Hops