



April 6, 2023

Dear Co-Chairs Steiner and Sanchez and members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means:

I am Deanna Palm, President, and CEO of the Washington County Chamber of Commerce. I write you today to respectfully request the legislature to consider a \$25M investment to support the new Hillsboro Hops Ballpark project.

The Washington County Chamber of Commerce, the largest chamber in Washington County, comprising over 825 members and representing nearly 72,000 jobs, is proud to support the Hillsboro Hops' new facility project. Our region has witnessed first-hand the economic growth and positive social impact the Hops' organization has demonstrated in both Hillsboro and throughout the Portland Metropolitan Region. The Hillsboro Hops, hundreds of sport programs, organizations, and entertainers will have an opportunity to use these new facilities. Aside from the 66 home games for baseball, the new ballpark could host summer concerts, festivals, private parties, community events, and serve as a regional entertainment destination.

The Hillsboro Hops have the unique opportunity of being one of 129 teams participating in the MLB's new Professional Development League. This new project will assist the Hillsboro Hops in conforming to MLB facility standards. Both the new and old Hops facilities will continue to provide spaces for sport, entertainment, and cultural events that that enrich our community and attract engagement from those inside and outside the Hillsboro area.

As referenced in the January 2023 *Economic Impact Study for a New Hillsboro Hops Ballpark*, the positive economic numbers speak for themselves, both during the construction phase, and also with its ongoing benefits to the community - which include an estimated \$64M in economic output, \$20M in wages annually, and \$3M in state and local taxes.

The Washington County Chamber is a proud sponsor and member of the Coalition which released the most comprehensive report in Oregon history on the impact and opportunity to grow both our rural and urban economies through major investments in one of our most important industries – athletic, outdoor, team and recreation. The funding request for this new facility is the Legislature's opportunity to invest in this industry in a very tangible and important way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deanna Palm". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Deanna" and the last name "Palm" clearly distinguishable.

Deanna Palm
President/CEO