



April 28, 2023

TO: Members of the Joint Committee on Ways & Means

FR: Scott Bruun, Vice President for Government Affairs

RE: Support for the Hillsboro Hops Stadium Project

OBI is a statewide association representing businesses from a wide variety of industries and from each of Oregon's 36 counties. In addition to being the statewide chamber of commerce, OBI is the state affiliate for the National Association of Manufacturers and the National Retail Federation. Our 1,600 member companies, more than 80% of which are small businesses, employ more than 250,000 Oregonians. And, as you know, Oregon's private sector entities help drive a healthy, prosperous economy for the benefit of everyone.

OBI urges you to support the Hillsboro Hops' request for \$25 million for the construction of a new stadium in Hillsboro. The return on this investment is real and it is meaningful.

This stadium project will result in significant economic impact during construction and longer-term as increased activities persist. During construction, the estimated impact is nearly \$200 million with 982 jobs. Once operational, the Hops forecast a biennial economic output of \$128 million, including \$6 million in biennial taxes and 381 jobs.

Those figures, which are impressive, represent the assumed benefit purely from the operational perspective of the Hops. Importantly, the construction of this facility will result in additional economic activity as it plays a role in growing a thriving community and ecosystem around it. The new facility—particularly when coupled with an existing facility that will remain operational—will enhance quality of life in the region by providing expanded access to a variety of affordable outdoor entertainment options. As employers throughout the region look to retain and recruit workers, recreational opportunities matter significantly.

We appreciate the many requests and difficult decisions before you. This is a smart and modest investment with significant returns. Please support the Hillsboro Hops' request and allow the community around them to leverage a unique and fruitful opportunity.

Thank you.

Contact: Scott Bruun, scottbruun@oregonbusinessindustry.com