



February 14, 2024

SUBJECT: HB 5201

Dear Capital Construction Committee Members,

When we relocated our minor league baseball team to Hillsboro in 2013, our primary objective was to reach a level of financial sustainability. None of us in our ownership group got into the sport for the money, rather it was a project founded on our mutual love of baseball at the grass roots level and a desire to create a valued community asset. We are proud to say that our mission has been accomplished, but our existence as one of the region's premier outdoor venues is now threatened.

Hillsboro Hops baseball offers affordable entertainment for thousands of residents and visitors. Ron Tonkin Field has become a community gathering place where shared memories are made as we support young players pursuing their own dreams. Furthermore, Ron Tonkin Field has become a place for other events such as the Latino Cultural Festival where people of diverse backgrounds and experiences can gather in a welcoming and safe environment. We are extremely proud that our passion for baseball has this ancillary benefit.

Unfortunately, the dynamics of professional baseball have changed dramatically in recent years. Major League Baseball has mandated massive playing facility upgrades that are not negotiable. Renovation of Ron Tonkin Field is not a financially viable option for meeting these new standards. We need a new ballpark to keep baseball in our community.

The Hops ownership group is doing everything possible to ensure that our hometown team will not only survive but thrive in this new era of minor league baseball. The new ballpark will allow this to happen. We are committing the future revenues generated by the facility to offset most construction costs. This investment will also result in even more occasions to gather en masse to enjoy sporting events, concerts, festivals, and community celebrations. In our opinion, greater opportunities to safely socialize with fellow human beings are needed more than ever in today's polarized environment.

For us, the new ballpark is a legacy project that will assure that we have a community gathering place where affordable entertainment is enjoyed and shared memories are created for future generations. With the support of the City of Hillsboro, Washington County and the State of Oregon, the new venue will be the region's front room for decades to come.

Bottom line: The ownership group of the Hillsboro Hops is making every effort to keep the team in our community long-term. This is our home. With your help, it will remain that way.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mike McMurray
Laura McMurray
Mike and Laura McMurray
Majority Owners