

Submitter: Hallie Holton

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital
Construction

Measure: HB5202

Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony in support of HB 5202.

I am writing to you today as a proud member of the Hillsboro Hops Front Office, which has been my place of employment for the past five years. My job with the Hillsboro Hops is the reason I moved to Oregon in late 2018. As someone who grew up around baseball, it was my dream to find a job in the industry. Since joining the Hops in January 2019, my career has blossomed, and I am proud to be a part of this organization.

When deciding what sort of job I wanted in sports, the Hops checked all the boxes I was looking for in an employer. Not only did they offer me a great entry-level opportunity and communicate that they wanted me to grow with the organization, but everyone I spoke with emphasized the importance of their community outreach as a part of what they do. Since joining the organization, I have seen firsthand these community efforts and the impact that the Hops make on schools, youth sports organizations, and first-generation college students. There is an active effort within the organization to create an inclusive environment for anyone and everyone at the ballpark.

I consider myself lucky that I have these built-in community bonds as part of my workplace. Connecting with our fans and community members is simply a part of who the Hops are - and to our core, we want to remain a part of this community and grow with it for decades to come. The funding for this ballpark ensures that our organization can continue to make a positive impact on our community.

Funding this project also creates more opportunities for jobs in sports. The way this new facility intends to operate is that it will become home to not only Hops games but to several festivals and community events. The draw of this new venue could expand the reach of our organization and allow for more stories like mine to come to life. Out-of-state employers looking for a landing place to begin their career in sports. The Hops have a track record of developing and retaining incredible staff and I believe that's in huge part because of the leadership and the values of this organization.

While the Hops are in the baseball business, baseball has little to do with how we make our decisions. We pride ourselves on being a fan-first and community-first organization with a service-based mission. With the support of HB 5202, the Hops can continue their legacy of community enrichment and entertainment for decades to

come.

Thank you for your time today.

Hallie Holton