

Submitter: Robert Stebe

On Behalf Of: Hillsboro Hops

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

Measure: HB5202

To those serving our state and communities:

At this point you are well aware of all the facts and numbers regarding the Hillsboro stadium construction and the ability to keep the Hillsboro Hops as part of minor league baseball. I would like to share with you my view from my particular vantage point. I began working for the Hops in the 2017 season. I had the good fortune to work with the scorekeeping crew that is located up in the press box. From that location I have a full view of not only the field, but of the variety of fans filling the seats. I hear the cheers and the groans by faithful fans who come for more than just baseball. I can also feel the energy of people coming together to support their team. However, when I come down to the concourse and mingle with the fans and staff, that's where I find community. Hillsboro in particular, but all of the surrounding towns and cities, value and take pride in their communities. As a retired pastor I know the importance and fulfillment of developing community. It's that feeling of community which brings people back game after game. But even if it's their first game or their only visit to the ballpark, that feeling of community makes a positive impact on one's life. Those who oppose this new stadium plan need to consider what happens to this sense of community without the Hops at the least, not to mention the economic impact on local businesses and the loss of jobs. Hillsboro is known throughout minor league baseball as one of the best places to play. Without baseball in Hillsboro, the losses are numerous and widespread. Sports and recreation are a huge part of life in the Portland metro area, our beautiful state and the nation. To fail to move forward with this stadium plan would bring a negative result that only dims the light of progress in many other areas of recreation and enjoyment of life. Thank you for this opportunity to share my love for this community in which I live, which is only made better by the community enhanced by the presence of the Hillsboro Hops.