

The Hillsboro Hops exert an immeasurable positive influence on the community, evident the moment one enters their ballpark. From heartfelt staff greetings to the vibrant energy of children, the significance of this space is undeniable. Supporting the Hops' bid for funding to finalize their new ballpark plan is essential for preserving their presence in Hillsboro, a vital asset deeply intertwined with the community's fabric. With a steadfast commitment to youth sports and education, exemplified by over \$1 million in donations since 2014, the Hops are integral to fostering a vibrant culture within their surroundings and beyond.

Having experienced firsthand the Hops' A+ hospitality as a fan, an intern in 2015, and working every home game the last three seasons in the press box, I can attest to their unwavering dedication. Under the stewardship of owners Mike and Laura McMurry, and president K.L. Wombacher, the organization instills a culture of care and investment that permeates every level of operation. The economic benefits of a new ballpark are also substantial. From direct income tax alone the state will see a payback within 7 years through construction and operational jobs. Retaining the Hops could also signal Oregon's steadfast support for baseball, potentially enhancing opportunities with Major League Baseball. It's imperative that we recognize the broader implications of losing the Hillsboro Hops, not just as a setback in Oregon baseball but as a loss of community cohesion and so much joy. I hope you will choose to support the Hops' efforts.

Best,

Will Garofalo