



February 16, 2024

Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Subcommittee On Capital Construction
900 Court Street NE
Salem OR 97301-4047
Re: HB 5201

Dear Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of funding for a new, MLB-compliant ballpark for the Hillsboro Hops.

The City of Hillsboro is working collaboratively with the Hillsboro Hops to building a new ballpark that will meet Major League Baseball player development requirements in addition to creating a regional entertainment destination for our surrounding area.

The City continues to lead on the design and construction of the project, in partnership with the Hops. The City of Hillsboro will own the new ballpark and the land on which the new ballpark will be built.

The finalized lease agreement will allow the Hops to operate the new ballpark for a minimum of 40 years, with options for extensions beyond that period. Current financial contributions to the project include:

- The City has committed \$18M towards the construction of the project from our City Transient Lodging Tax.
- The Washington County Board of Commissioners has voted unanimously to contribute \$8M from the County's Transient Lodging Tax.

Funding and land from the City of Hillsboro, combined with funding from Washington County, provides certainty to the state that the public resources identified in this letter are certain and committed. With the Hops substantial private investment and financing, a state investment will result in a new ballpark that will retain the Hops in Oregon and provide an anchor recreational facility to support the regional and state economy. We urge the Committee's support of this request and inclusion in HB 5201.

Thank you for your service to the State of Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robby Hammond'.

Robby Hammond
City Manager