

Submitter: Dalene Felix

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB5201

Good afternoon,

I am writing in support of the funding necessary to replace the baseball stadium for the Hillsboro Hops minor league baseball team. My family and I have enjoyed the entertainment of professional baseball for the past ten years. We were thrilled to have a team come to Hillsboro in 2013 and have been fans since the beginning. It is one of the reasons we consider Hillsboro a quality place to live. We have made so many friends and connections through this activity. We recommend the experience to new residents, and it's the first place we bring visitors to Hillsboro. My family has enjoyed the experiences of seeing our sons develop a love of sports. My sons have also benefitted from the Hops donations to youth sports and education, which have amounted to over \$1 million.

Two of our family members have been employed part-time by the Hops and have considered it our pleasure to work for and spend our time at such a wholesome family-oriented experience. Nothing beats watching great baseball, making friends, and seeing the community gather at the games. Because of this positive experience, one of my sons has chosen a career in sports and is on his way to reaching his career goals.

Most of the money necessary has already been raised. The amount that is being requested from the state (\$15 million) would not come from general funds that support important needs. The request is for money that is meant for construction projects. Approval only makes economic sense for the state, as the stadium generates \$1.5 million annually in income tax from ballpark related jobs. In addition, there will be \$6.9 million paid in state income tax, from the construction jobs. At this rate, the state will break even in a little over 6 years. After that, the state will see a profit from their investment. I also have seen many visitors to Hillsboro, who have traveled here specifically for the games. This brings additional income to our community. This has only grown over the years, and will continue to grow.

I am also looking forward to other entertainment options that will be available to our community year-round, such as concerts. I know that the sports/entertainment community will benefit in many ways.

I feel it's extremely important to live in a community where we have sports/entertainment/recreational opportunities available. Building this stadium will open up so many affordable options for our community, and by doing this now, we will assure that these activities will be available for years to come. Since the current ball fields that the new stadium will impact will be replaced, there is no downside to this venture. The new stadium is critical to retaining our team, as the current one does not meet MLB standards. There are so many downsides to the thought of losing our team. And to be clear, without a new stadium that meets standards, we will lose our Hops team, and so much more!

Thank you for your consideration,

Dalene Felix