

JANEEN SOLLMAN
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 15



OREGON STATE SENATE

February 16, 2024

TO: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

RE: Support for HB 5201-Hillsboro Hops Funding Request

Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to ask for you to stand beside me and build community. The Hillsboro Hops are so much more than a baseball team. They are a community hub, a champion of diversity and youth sports, and a vital part of Washington County and beyond. As the senator representing District 15, I know many of my constituents are passionate Hops fans who are excited about the new ballpark and all the promise that it will bring through enhanced concerts, community events and a better baseball experience.

However, there is another statewide benefit to building a new ballpark and retaining this team that I want to emphasize today. This ask is not a want, but a must. It is a requirement from the MLB. If the teams are forced to leave, Hillsboro, Washington County, and indeed, Oregon, lose out on decades of revenue that would have been generated from paying team employees, and tourism revenue from visitors coming to see games and other large events at the new ballpark. A local economic analysis firm, ECONorthwest, has calculated that this one-time state investment in our Oregon ballparks projects will be paid back in approximately 6 years from the personal income taxes.

This project is a win for all, whether you are a baseball fan, a fan of fun and community building, or someone with a business mind who loves the strong return on investment that these projects bring. When some people ask, "How can we afford to build this new stadium?" I say, "How can we afford *not* to?"

The level of team and local investment on this community stadium project is impressive. The total project in Hillsboro is 125 million and will also bring strong, labor union jobs for the build. \$110m of the project is non-state funding, and the stadium will be owned by the City of Hillsboro.

- \$82m - private financing by Hops owners
- \$18m - City of Hillsboro
- \$8m - Washington County
- \$2m - Washington County Visitors Association (is under way)

The total Oregon Capitol Construction Bond dollars request is 15 million dollars.

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I urge my fellow Legislators to keep their eye on the ball and not leave money on the field for Oregon by making the Hops walk. I respectfully ask for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janeen Sollman". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Senator Janeen Sollman
Senate District 15