

Submitter: Denise Caire

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB5201

I am OPPOSED to the Hops stadium.

It is a "vanity project" for Mayor Steve Callaway. He wants an amphitheater, a plaza, and other "passive entertainment" facilities at the GFRC with NO TRAFFIC IMPACT ANALYSIS (TIA) as promised when they approved the Conditional Use 002-23 to add a rumored Hops stadium to the GFRC.

I was at the zoning board meeting then participants "cajoled and badgered the Citizens" on the hearing board into passing it. The "people on the board" admitted that they did "not do any economic comparison study" to determine what was lost, did NO TIA, said the one done 25 years ago in 1998 was valid. And promised to do a TIA study for ANY other modification to the Conditional 002-23 Use project.

The population of Hillsboro was 63,800 in 1998. Today the population is over 110,000. No new TIA has been conducted. The City of Hillsboro continues to contend that the study from 25 years ago is "good enough." However, the population has increased by 66% since 1998. Time for a legitimate TIA.

Callaway is an ambitious Californian who wants to see his name in lights above the proposed stadium and change Historic Hillsboro into an "art and entertainment tourist" destination city similar to Anaheim. He gave KL Wombacher (Hops manager and organizer of Short Season LLC, 27 rich investors) seed money when the team was in Yakima to come to Hillsboro in 2012 and is pushing the Hops on a town that does NOT WANT IT.

They have gone so far as to bus in elementary school age children to Hops games, practices, exhibitions, and various appearances to "indoctrinate" children as fans using public funds. This is worse than "electioneering," where public funds (salary and time), materials (paper for printing), and facilities (sending election material home with children on the bus after school) is used to produce campaign flyers. This is brain washing "future fans" in an effort to "grow a Hops fan base" from elementary age children. That is wrong, sick, and illegal.

The marketing technique is called a "from birth to death" campaign, like Coke, Pepsi, Marlboro, Newport, etc. It is the most under-handed, disgusting method to "groom" our youth to suit the Callaway's desire to be a "BIG MAN, A BIG TEXAN."

PORTLAND IS WHERE A BASEBALL LEAGUE BELONGS WHERE TRANSPORTATION AND HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS EXIST. STOP TRYING TO COMPETE.

Please do not let an ambitious and disingenuous group of politically motivated people take over this town and renovate it into a Hollywood, an Oroville, or a fake and phony Disneyland sprawling, air polluting, water poisoning, earth denaturing, place where Intel, Amazon, and prospectors run our town.

The Hops stadium is not popular as the PR campaign portrays. How many season ticket holders do they have? 400? 500? And a "sell out of 4,700," once. Yet we the TAX payers are being forced to pay directly (property taxes) or indirectly (taxes from hotels/motels, etc.) for a poorly researched and thought-out plan for "A MAN NAMED STEVE CALLAWAY." Why don't you ask him how much "seed money" he put in 2011 to move the Yakima Bears to Hillsboro as the Hops?

VOTE NO! Do the home work. Look at all the teams who have tried and failed: Beavers, Mavericks, Rockies. Who holds the "bag" when the Hops fail? Drop it on the taxpayers?

Where are the hotels from which "lodging taxes" will be collected to pay for part of the rumored "Hops stadium?" Same for Washington County throwing in "lodging taxes." From where? New structures that will be built? Where? When?

Are they going to orchestrate a plan to build a bunch of Hotels, Motels, Short Stay businesses of any name to be built in the North Hillsboro Industrial Area? Or North Plains?

Stop the Hops stadium. It's not been researched adequately or thoroughly. It's a vanity project for Mayor Steve Callaway and his cohorts, Janeen Sollman and Washington County commissioners. Who among them is a "TRUE" Oregonian and not just a greedy and fame-grabbing outsider?

Yours,
Denise Caire