

Submitter: Erich Garcia

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB5201

Hello Committee,

Like to thank you for the opportunity to submit my thoughts in support of additional funding for the new Hillsboro Hops facility. It's an important project for our community and appreciate the consideration.

Baseball in the Portland Metro goes back to 1866. For over 96% of the time Oregon has existed as a state there has been a professional baseball team in the Metro. Baseball is part of the DNA of not only local community but the PNW as a whole. In order to continue the tradition we need to provide funding to meet the new requirements of Minor League Baseball. This funding is needed in part due to the players finally being paid a livable wage and required facility updates for safety. Fair wages and safe working conditions should be something that we support as a community as an example to all. What does it say to workers if we as a community decide to lose jobs and civic pride because it wasn't the cheapest option?

There are always going to be things that need to be addressed and not ignorant to the issues our County faces. Very few of the options laid before you for this discretionary spending are going to create a place where 5000 members of our local community can come together to be as one. Not only the team facility but additional fields for more athletic activities is a huge bonus. Sports has the ability to be a great unifier and a creator of civic pride which is in high need today.

I'm a season ticket holder for the Hops and have been for years. This organization in particular is not some anonymous, out of state, organization looking for a cash grab. It's OUR team! There is nothing better on a warm summer day being out at the park with my local Metro community. Extra benefit to local businesses, additional recreational space and keeping OUR Hillsboro Hops here should be a top priority.

Again, thank you for time and consideration. As a homeowner, ticket holder, fan of this community and it's future I strongly urge you to fund this project.

Thank You,
Erich Garcia