

Submitter: andrew hoffmann

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB5201

I'm writing to you, asking for your support in the Hops request for \$15 million in state funding support to close the financial gap they currently have in constructing a stadium to meet MLB standards. This amount of money pales to the significant economic, social and long-term monetary return the new stadium provides not just to Washington County, but also to the state of Oregon. The direct impact in income taxes the state will receive during the construction period and upon completion, the number of individuals hired to support the stadium activities help to contribute to the economic viability of the state. The social contributions (through the Hops Fund) from supporting the development of baseball at local grade and high schools to individual college scholarships reflect an organization committed to long term, familial relationships. Too often the state of Oregon is negatively portrayed as area rife with problems, lacking the viability for families to grow and prosper. The Hops organization in its endeavors works diligently to reverse this media representation. Not supporting this funding generates the strong probability the Hops will be forced to leave, creating yet another negative example of what is wrong with Oregon. I again ask that you work with your counterparts to create a funding package to help the Hops, Eugene Emeralds and Salem Volcanos to meet their funding needs and strengthen the vision of sports as a contributor to the overall well-being of our state.