

Submitter:

Sandra Joos

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB110

Many of the talking points of the Portland Diamond Project are misleading, ambiguous, and deceptive. For example:

1) Advocates say a baseball team is a catalyst for economic development. But 45 years of economic studies show that stadiums fail as an economic development catalyst. Most stadium-related spending reflects the reallocation/shift of spending from other local establishments, not creating new spending. The Trailblazers, for instance, are not an economic engine.

2) SB 110-A is the biggest single ask for state funds for any private business or cultural venue in Oregon history.

3) How do local community services get funded if the tax revenue from the team's salaries pays for stadium construction, and the stadium's property taxes pay for road improvements? Devoting this additional \$1 billion to the stadiums will lead to fewer dollars available for police, fire, schools and other public services the team and stadium require.

4) The diversion of up to \$1.4 billion in baseball players' taxes establishes a troubling precedent. Once this mechanism is used for baseball, other sports teams like the Trailblazers' - with their 30-year old MODA Center soon requiring major rehab or replacement - will expect similar treatment resulting in additional losses to state income.