

Submitter:

Randy Knop

On Behalf Of:

Committee:

House Committee On Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic:

SB110

SB 110-Will be the largest single ask for state funds for a private venture in Oregon history. This naturally raises questions about opportunity costs – what else could that significant amount of money be used for in the state?

Funding Local Community Services is about the allocation of tax revenue and whether a sports stadium is in fact a public service. If the income taxes generated from the team's salaries are earmarked for stadium construction, and the stadium's property taxes are dedicated to road improvements, it will negatively impact the general fund that supports essential local services like police, fire departments, and schools.

My concern is that fewer dollars will be available for these services if a large sum is devoted to the stadium. It forces a trade-off between a potential private entertainment venture and public necessities.

The Precedent of Diverting Player Taxes will haunt the legislature and local communities for generations to come, with the diversion of up to \$1.4 billion in baseball players' taxes. Establishing such a mechanism could indeed set a troubling precedent and one that would beckon the Trail Blazers, facing their own infrastructure needs in the future, to likely seek similar tax benefits. This could lead to a substantial erosion of state income that would otherwise fund public services.

I ask that you not pass this bill.