

Submitter: Dale Feik  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Revenue  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB110

SB 110 - 1 - Baseball stadium funding needs a new amendment  
Senate Finance and Revenue - Dale Feik - April 13, 2025

Chair Meek and members of the committee, my name is Dale Feik and I am speaking for Washington County Citizen Action Network, Chair

I loved people watching me play baseball when I started playing as a 9-year-old kid. I am now 80 years young. I dreamed of making the big leagues and came close to being drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates. The stadiums/fields that we played in were always big enough for the number of spectators that showed up.

Previously I lobbied to not fund with State money the HOPS stadium and failed. I testified that that the people who are proposing building a bigger stadium seem to forget that the HOPS team can't fill the current stadium: only 2356 average attendance, yet team wants the public to help pay for a 7000-seat stadium.

Now we are at it again. The 2003 law sets sets a terrible way of doing things, because if used, it would be the first time you are retuning to sports team owners the taxes of their employees and competition. If you do this for major league baseball, how would you justify not doing the same effort for the Trailblazers, who will soon want a third replacement for their stadium? Maybe supporting any stadium project with their mechanism is not the right move and the provision should be removed from our statute with a -2 amendment. Doesn't the state have bigger responsibilities.

We think that you, not the Diamond Project team, should design any amendment to current law.

Thank you for your consideration.