

SB 110 A – OPPOSE, A-9 amendment - OPPOSE

May 15, 2025

House Committee On Revenue

Chair **Nathanson**, Vice-chair Reschke and Vice-chair Walters

Of all the many needs Oregon has, a Major League Baseball stadium should be at the very bottom of the list. Why should all taxpayers commit to forgoing 30-years of estimated future revenue from future baseball players and their staff to pay for the costs of developing, constructing, and furnishing a privately owned enterprise for a Major League Baseball stadium in Portland? It would be very unwise for the present legislature to make such a huge commitment that will tie up revenue needed by future legislators to provide services to these same MBL employees for 30 years. And, unlike other Oregonians, they will provide no resources for dealing with increasing wildfire and housing costs.

So why would the legislature take an interest in such a pie-in- the-sky project just because a small percentage of the population wants to watch MBL games in Portland? Won't a precedent be set for higher and higher state subsidies for sports and other privately owned venues?

This is certainly not a risk-free proposition, and in these most unpredictable times, we should not be counting on fictitious income! It's very hard to imagine there will be 32,000 fans filling this stadium for every game for 30 years starting six years from now after the stadium is built. And think of Portland's other big projects that need funding that will most likely take a back burner, like the Lloyd Center and the Moda Center!

Oregon legislators need to be responsible enough to see what a bad example this sets, and what a risky proposition this is, and not commit Oregon tax dollars to subsidize a private venture.

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