

Chair Nathanson and other committee members.

I am Stephen Wright, My testimony is in opposition to SB 110-A. This bill's special diversion of baseball players' taxes establishes a troubling precedent. Let me explain.

Left to their own devices, this creative bill, approved as written, opens the door for other sport teams and business owners to take advantage of this funding mechanism for their stadiums and businesses. What is good for the goose is good for the gander. I suggest the floodgates will open.

Here are two potential asks where new stadium construction or renovations currently exist in Oregon.

The Trail Blazers aging 30 year old Moda Center, the average-age of NBA's arenas and also the oldest to never undergo a major renovation, which is now scheduled ahead of the 2030 NCAA Women's Final Four. Moda Center is also owned by the city of Portland. It's clear that the agreement between the city and Rip City Management, the previous owner, allows for public investment in the arena, including potential public bonds and tax increment financing.

And what about the Eugene Emeralds baseball team? They are looking to relocate after voters rejected a ballot measure last May to secure funding for a new or improved stadium that meets required MLB standards, Once a precedent is set with this bill passing, would they not pivot and ask to keep the taxes of their players to build a new stadium?

Again, I suggest that this bill sets a bad precedence as a giveaway that Oregonians can't afford, especially now. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Stephen Wright
415 N. Bridgeton Rd, Slip 5
Portland, OR 97217

