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**Via E-mail ([hbl.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:hbl.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov))**

Representative Paul Holvey  
Chair, House Business and Labor Committee

Re: Senate Bill 901  
Our File No.: WES 158-1

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the House Business and Labor Committee:

During the public hearing on SB 901A on May 3, 2017 in your committee a couple of questions were asked by committee members. This letter is in response to those questions.

First, Representative Bynum asked about health insurance for WHL/Winterhawks players and what kind of coverage, if any, is provided to address potentially long term or permanent injury. Players on all WHL U.S. based teams (including the Portland Winterhawks) are covered both by the Hockey Canada and USA Hockey membership insurance programs. The policies provide a broad range of medical and dental insurance. In addition, WHL Clubs are required to provide supplementary medical and dental insurance for out of country travel and are responsible for the diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of injuries which a player may sustain during the hockey season. In the event of a serious injury of a permanent nature, a player would be entitled to up to \$2 million for catastrophic injury. As you may recall, all players receive a one year scholarship benefit for every year played in the WHL. For a player suffering a career ending hockey injury, the WHL provides an automatic four (4) year scholarship benefit regardless of the number of years played in the league.

Second, Representative Hack asked about what, if any, tax forms are filed by players to report the "stipend" they receive. After further clarification with the league, the players actually receive an expense reimbursement as opposed to a "stipend." During the hockey season players receive a maximum reimbursement of \$250 per month for travel, training and related expenses. As an expense reimbursement, players are not required to report these reimbursements, but they are required to retain proof of expenditures.



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Since the hearing I have spoken with Representatives Bynum and Hack about the questions they raised. However, if any member of the committee has any further questions or would like more clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,

Timothy J. Bernasek

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cc: Ron Robison, via email  
Doug Piper, via email

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