

Submitter: ivan hernandez

On Behalf  
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital  
Construction

Measure: HB5202

My name is Ivan Hernandez,

Currently working as Director of Community Development for the Hillsboro Hops Baseball club. I wanted to send this personal note in support of using Tax revenue to assist the City of Hillsboro in the development of a Minor League Ballpark. I've been employed by the Hops since May 18 of 2018. The ballpark and front office team have literally been my second home and family since my first day. Despite living in the US for over 20 years, this is where I learned what it is to live in America. Ron Tonkin is where I am making my American Dream Come true and, through my position, I am helping others live the American Dream through scholarships, first time experiences and first class family friendly entertainment. Here is where I had the opportunity to make a community impact that increases diversity in a sport that is known to not be diverse, and to make history in the process with the creation of the Soñadores de de Hillsboro brand, thus putting Hillsboro in the map as a leader in Diversity Equity and Inclusion in all Minor League Baseball. I've seen how Ron Tonkin has become the Livingroom of Hillsboro, where people can come together and build community while having a family fun time. Our games are now truly representing Hillsboro's diversity; Pride night, Tribal night, Latinx nights, Juneteenth Celebrations, women in sports, STEM. We are also making a positive impact on Washington County students through reading programs, scholarships for first gen students and youth sports grants and volunteering. If you don't support the new ballpark initiative, this growth and opportunities will disappear and the progress we have made in creating a more inclusive city and sport will vanish. Please support the funding for new ballpark.