

February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Hello,

My name is Johnny Harvey. I have lived in the State of Oregon my whole life, primarily in Washington County. I am writing to you to demonstrate my full support for HB 5201.

In an effort to be fully transparent, I am a full-time employee of the Hillsboro Hops Baseball Team. I know that I am biased. I have heard all the arguments in favor of my opinion, and I recognize that I probably could spend more time seeking out other arguments that aren't just comments on social media posts. However, I wanted to write this letter to provide my unique perspective as an Oregon resident and a Hops employee.

I know some of the facts already, so I won't be listing any of those out here. If presented in a certain way, \$15 million seems like a sound investment that would see an ROI in well under a decade. However, I understand that \$15 million is always going to be a significant amount of money. To be fair, I'm not even fully sure what this money could be used for, but I know that there are a lot of other ways to spend money in general.

Still, I have a firsthand perspective on what the Hillsboro Hops provide to our immediate and greater community. I see the memories that are made at every game by residents and visitors to the area. Many are baseball fans, but many don't care about who plays or what the final score is. In the last few seasons, I helped oversee our DEI Promotional Nights & Events. These community gatherings brought people out to a minor league baseball stadium to see their own cultures represented. I've helped provide scholarships to first-generation college students. I've worked at our annual banquet that has raised over \$100,000 each year for youth sports and education opportunities in the Greater Hillsboro area.

I believe this demonstrates that we – the Hillsboro Hops – are focused on more than just baseball games. I am an avid sports fan, and I will always support the local teams that are here, but I know that can't be someone's only argument. This new stadium will allow the Hops to grow their team and make even more of an impact to improve the quality of life in our state.

We need your support. Even if I move on to another career, I will still live here, and I need the Hops to stay and continue the important work that they do for people like me. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Johnny  
Portland