

February 15, 2024

To whom it may concern:

My name is Kyle Worel and I am writing to you today in advocacy of the passing of the bills on bonding and capital projects as they pertain to the approval of necessary funding for the Hillsboro Hops new stadium project and keeping the Hops in Hillsboro long term.

In full transparency, I would like to first note that I am currently an employee of the Hillsboro Hops and a proud member of the Front Office team. In my two seasons and counting with the Hops I have been provided many opportunities to develop myself professionally in an environment that fosters teamwork, professionalism, and service.

Being the only professionally affiliated baseball team in the Portland Metro area is exciting to be a part of, but the sport of baseball is only a fraction of what the Hillsboro Hops mean and bring to the City of Hillsboro, the Portland Metropolitan area, and the State of Oregon as a whole.

The most fulfilling part of my employment with the organization is the opportunity to connect with and impact the community in a multitude of ways. I find it an honor to use this platform to be able to partake in the many youth clinics we bring to kids in the community throughout the year, volunteer at the Oregon Food Bank, assist with Barley's Kids Club events and book readings, and be involved in the process of granting scholarships and grants that benefit the youth in our area.

The Hops leaving Hillsboro, and potentially Oregon, wouldn't make a huge dent on the game of baseball. The players would still have a team somewhere else where they would be able to develop their talents and pursue their dreams of playing in the Major Leagues.

The dent would be on the community – the youth that wake up excited to meet their favorite players at one of these clinics or get an autograph at a game, the 1,000+ students who would not be able to come out to STEM Day at the ballpark, the friends and families who want to have a safe place to get together for a night out in the summer, etc. I could go on, but I'm sure other letters express the same sentiments and you all know the non-baseball impact that losing a team here in Hillsboro would have.

With the above in mind I ask for your support in passing the bills that will approve the funding of not only a new ballpark for the Hops, but of the long-term positive impact that doing so will have for our friends, families, and valued members of the community.

I appreciate your time and consideration of my testimony,

Kyle Worel