

Submitter: Hannah August

On Behalf Of: Hillsboro Hops

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

Measure: HB5202

Sen. Girod, Rep. Holvey, Members of the Capital Construction Subcommittee:

I am writing you today in support of HB 5202 to support the Hillsboro Hops stadium project and keep the team here in Oregon. As an employee of the Hops for the past eight years, as well as a lifelong Oregon resident, I have had the opportunity to see the impacts this organization has had on individuals, families, and our community as a whole. While on the surface, the Hops are a baseball team, we are so much more than that. We are a community gathering place, providing a fun, affordable way for friends, families, co-workers, and community members to come together and connect.

In addition to games, the Hops are present in our community in a multitude of ways. Being apart of our Community Engagement team, I have had the opportunity to see what an impact the Hops have been able to have on our community on a daily basis. Annually, we host numerous free clinics to allow youth athletes to get involved in the sport. In 2023 alone, we hosted 9 clinics for over 1,000 athletes across Hillsboro and the Portland Metro area. We also host an annual reading program in collaboration with the local school districts for elementary school students to encourage reading during their spring break. In 2023, students read over 373,000 minutes, that is nearly 260 days worth of reading!

The Hillsboro Hops Fund, a subset of the Hillsboro Community Foundation, is also a huge part of our organization, providing grants to local youth baseball and softball organizations, to lower the barriers of entry for youth to be able to play the game we all know and love. We have also launched our Dream Big scholarships for first generation college students, looking to take that next step in their education journey. Through these programs, the Hops Fund has provided over \$750,000 in funding to our community since 2014.

I urge you to support HB 5202, this is an investment that is bigger than baseball. A new stadium would not only improve the game-day experience for fans and players but also provide financial benefits through the taxes and opportunities for additional events to bring our community together. It would also keep the Hops, as well as all of our community programs, here in Hillsboro for years to come. At the end of the day, this will be a benefit for our community, our schools, our youth athletes and our future college students and employees.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Hannah August