

Submitter: Jeanne Olson

On Behalf
Of: Scappoose JBO

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

Measure: HB5202

Dear Committee Members-

I am writing today in support of funding for the construction of a new stadium for the Hillsboro Hops. Our organization, Scappoose JBO, has been the recipient of a Hops Foundation field improvement grant for the past several years and we have developed a close relationship with the Hillsboro Hops. Scappoose JBO is a junior baseball organization association which serves 7th and 8th grade players in the Scappoose School District. The fields that are home fields for our 3 teams are located at Scappoose High School and shared with Scappoose High School's 3 baseball teams. Since our programs' inception in 2019, the Hops have been supporting us for every step. The field improvement grants that we have received have provided part of the funding to make many much needed safety improvements to our fields. We have been able to install safety railings in front of the dugouts, rebuild one pitching mound and repair a home plate and many other small projects, thanks to the Hops. We would not have been able to complete or afford these projects as a young organization.

Not only have the Hops provided us with financial support, our teams have had the opportunity to attend games at Hops stadium and our high school team has had the opportunity to play on Ron Tonkin field, which was a dream come true for many of our players. As 4A State Champions last year, our team was honored on the field before a Hops game and threw out the first pitch at the game. For many of our players this was one of their favorite memories of the season.

In addition to financial contributions, the Hops have provided our players with equipment that they may not have otherwise been able to afford, such as batting helmets and baseball bats. Our regular seasons are played with metal baseball bats, but our teams have had opportunities to play in wood-bat tournaments on occasion. The bats that the Hops generously donated to our programs were vital in allowing us to play in such tournaments.

Scappoose has been the recipient of the generosity of the Hops, many other organizations have benefited as well. My son and I were able to attend a Hops game where grant recipients were invited. I was amazed at the number of programs, organizations and teams that were there, all supporting youth and families in our community that were supported by the Hillsboro Hops. We recognized so many faces from all over the area that we had seen at youth baseball games. It was a

wonderful chance for us to get together with other organizations' leadership and collaborate on new ways to support our young players.

The Hops Play Ball Weekend is another great event that the Hops provide for the community. Free baseball clinics around the metro area. Kids have the opportunity to play some baseball and be coached by Hops players and high school players. This is a fun event that my boys were lucky enough to be involved with last year. It was a great opportunity for them to volunteer, network, and have a lot of fun with Hops players as well as the young campers. Scappoose is hoping to be chosen to host one of these clinics in the future.

If the Hops were to leave Hillsboro, it would be a detriment to the entire community. The generosity of the Hops is amazing and would be sorely missed. Attending a Hops game is one of few hard to find local, family fun events that is affordable for the whole family to attend. It's just good, clean, family fun! I urge you to please support the funding of the Hillsboro Hops stadium and to keep this wonderful organization for our entire community.

Thank you.

Jeanne Olson
Vice-President, Scappoose JBO
Mother of 2 Scappoose HS baseball players