

Submitter: Jaime Rodriguez

On Behalf  
Of:

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

Measure: HB5202

Dear Chair and committee members

I write to you as a fan of baseball but more importantly a fan of economics, family friendly entertainment and little kids dreams. It's unfortunate the Major League Baseball has imposed an upgrade the regions beloved Hillsboro Hops who soon will be entering an 11th season of bringing community together.. As a 10 year season ticket holder of the former Portland Beavers (2001-2011) and founding season ticket holder of the Hillsboro Hops (2013-2018), I respectfully ask you to join other legislators to pass funding methods for a new ballpark that will ensure the Hops stay in our Region for years to come. I was there when the ground broke in the Fall of 2012. I witness, as a Hillsboro resident, the growth baseball brought to the Tanasbourne area and subsequent growth and business opportunities that came to Beaverton, Hillsboro and Washington County.. I witnessed the smiles, laughs and both sunny and rain delayed games of Hops baseball. Including a 19th inning game which my daughter called one of the best days of her young life. There has been too much investment already to stop now and go in reverse and oppose progressing with a bigger and better future for the area and state. Even now as a Woodburn Resident I find the time to go to a dozen or so games a season. Its affordable entertainment worth driving to in Spring and Summer months.

Here is why:

This makes economic sense for the state. The new ballpark will provide \$6.9 million in state income tax from the construction jobs and \$1.5 million annually from the ballpark related jobs. This results in a payback to the state in 6.5 years on direct income tax alone.

The Hops community support is substantial and grows every year. Since 2014, the Hops have donated over \$1 million to youth sports and education related opportunities.

We need places to gather for wholesome shared experiences. Ballparks bring people together like no other venue. Getting people out of their house and off their devices is critical for positive mental health. Nothing beats a generational experience like grandparents taking their grandkids to their first baseball game!

This is an investment that will pay itself back over the years. It gives youth an opportunity to dream bring and hea "Play Ball" at a local professional level as many to not have the resources to Seattle of San Francisco.

Respectively,

Jaime Rodriguez,