

Submitter: Brad Smith

On Behalf  
Of:

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

Measure: HB5201

As a resident of Hillsboro and a Hillsboro Hops fan I am writing to you to day to urge you to support the Hillsboro Hops funding bill. My family has attended many Hops games throughout their 10 years in our community. The sense of community a Hops game provides goes beyond just baseball.

As a longtime Hillsboro resident, parent, business owner, and baseball fan, I have seen firsthand how having affordable access to sports in our community has benefited families and kids throughout the region. The Hops have gone out of their way to give back to our community, in just the last year the Hillsboro Hops Fund provided over \$100,000.00 to 30+ youth baseball and softball leagues in our region. Having a minor league team means so much to our local youth sports, it would be so disappointing to see them leave.

Sports are an essential source of local and state revenue. Without the Hops, Oregon stands to lose millions of dollars in personal income tax revenue. Maintaining our revenue streams is critically important if we want to continue to invest funds in mental health and homelessness. We simply cannot afford not to invest in this project. That is what this is, an investment. Once open the year-round venue will annually generate an estimated \$64million in regional economic activity, \$3million in state and local taxes, and support over 380 full time jobs, which is 25 to 35 more than the current stadium. I agree that social services should be a priority this short session. This project investment will lead to more jobs and tax revenue helping to fund social services into the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration