

Submitter: Chris Helmsworth

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB110

It has been proposed SB100 be amended to increase the amount of bonds that the legislature can issue for construction of a baseball stadium in Portland to be paid off by taxes on players and employees of the team.

The new amount of those bonds can total 800 million dollars.

I am opposed to this change.

While amendment is written in such a way that the state treasurer is responsible for the specifics of managing this tax, the Portland Diamond Project, as the organization that is requesting this money needs to be transparent as how they envision this tax to work. They are the ones suggesting the amount so somehow they arrived at this figure.

As a taxpayer in Oregon, I am in effect a co-signer on the loan that the bonds represent. As such, is it not unreasonable to expect at least some outline of how this loan will be paid off?

Depending on interest rates, PDP will need to raise 30 to 40 million dollars a year in taxes to pay off the bonds. What percentage of this figure comes from players? How much from front office employees? How much will come from the pockets of people working concessions and other support positions? The amount of money that is being requested is simply too large to trust that it will work out for the best.

Additionally, the last MLB stadium to come into service, in Texas in 2020, cost 1.1 billion. While the proposed stadium is slightly smaller than the Texas venue, increased construction costs since that time suggest that a billion dollars is the minimum that any new stadium will cost. What assurances do we have the PDP will not have its hand out for more money further down the line?

And finally, while PDP has an idea of how they want to pay for a stadium, such of a facility is of no use without spectators. Updates to infrastructure will be needed to get 32,000 people in and out of the venue.

Where is that money for infrastructure coming from? I urge the committee not to fall for the tired argument that a stadium will uplift the surrounding area and so the improvements will pay for themselves. A simple search on "Do stadiums make money for the community" will give you the answer. The answer is that the impact is

neutral at best. If you need more specifics, refer to the book published by the Brookings Institute , Roger Noll and Andrew Zimbalist's , Sports, Jobs, and Taxes: The Economic Impact of Sports Teams and Stadiums.

Thank you