



SB 110 A: Relating to increasing the amount of incremental baseball tax revenues that the Oregon Department of Administrative Services may grant for the purpose of constructing a major league baseball stadium.

House Committee on Revenue | Richard Swift | 5/15/2025

Good afternoon Chair Nathanson, Vice Chair Reschke and Committee Members, my name is Richard Swift, I am testifying on behalf of Tax Fairness Oregon, a network of volunteers who advocate for a rational and equitable tax code. TFO's members have a range of experiences with the tax code over decades as professionals and volunteers. I spent my career in Oregon in local government focusing on health care, human services and low income housing preservation and development.

Watching a baseball game from the bleaches with a hotdog and beverage in hand is a wonderful escape on a sunny afternoon. Unfortunately, Oregon cannot escape the rising tides of the housing, behavioral health and food scarcity challenges that face the state. This is not taking into account the Federal budget impacts on Medicaid and SNAP benefits which are unknown. The discussion of baseball is a distraction that we can ill afford.

I ask the Committee to consider economic analysis done by the Ludwig Institute for Shared Economic Prosperity which looks at transparent economic indicators for unemployment, cost of living, and earnings nationwide. Their indicators are sobering: with functional unemployment at 24.3%, true cost of living at 9.4% and true weekly earnings at \$1,000 a month. These indicators are developed from peoples' actual lived economic experience, not gross national statistics used in the media. They set true unemployment for the Portland area at 20.3%

Once we've done the work of raising all boats then maybe it might be time to consider ways to pay for a baseball stadium. It is the wrong time to consider SB 110 A.

We read the bills and follow the money