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Lady and Gentlemen:

We are a group of residents of the neighborhoods surrounding the Red Tail golf course. We are joining together to oppose the development of the Red Tail site as a future major league baseball stadium. Although we are still organizing, we felt it was important to let you know as soon as possible our position.

First, we'd like you to know that we fully support your hard work in trying to bring major league baseball to Portland. Doing so could greatly enhance the city's economy and position as a destination for both visitors and future residents. Cities like Portland need enthusiastic boosters like all of you to keep it on the proper trajectory.

However, locating a baseball stadium in the middle of a bedroom community is not the way to go about it. Among our many concerns are the following:

**Transportation** – As you know, Red Tail is bordered on two sides by Scholls Ferry Road and Oleson Road, both of which are two-lane streets with single family residences on one or both sides. Both are grossly inadequate to support stadium traffic, meaning they would have to be widened, probably at the cost of tearing down many of those residences. Further, the only highway access to those roads is via Highway 217, which has been the source of significant traffic congestion for many years, and which is still being worked on by the Oregon Department of Transportation. This work would probably be rendered obsolete by a stadium, or at the very least require significant alteration. Finally, the quality of life of the hundreds of residents in the surrounding neighborhoods would be irreparably harmed by the overwhelming traffic on game days.

**Public Safety** – There are currently on Scholls Ferry Road an elementary school, a middle school, at least one elder care residence and a fire station, all of which back on to, or are across the street from, the golf course. The danger to the students attending those schools from the car and foot traffic would be significant, not to mention the increase in refuse and vandalism that would result. The fire station would not be able to function in its current location, as the emergency vehicles would be unable to get in or out of the station on game days.

**School Use of Red Tail** – Currently, at least five schools (Ida B. Wells High School, Oregon Episcopal School, Jesuit High School, Lewis & Clark College and Beaverton High School) use Red Tail as the main facility for their golf teams. Red Tail is the only community course available within relative proximity to these schools. Closing Red Tail as a golf course could mean shuttering these programs completely. It would be painfully ironic, in the name of promoting sports, to prevent so many student athletes from participating in their chosen sport.

**Cost** – We understand that you are currently working on the funding to acquire the site. However, we have not seen any explanation as to how the stadium build would be funded. We understand that several funding

options (tax incentives, etc.) that are available at some sites, like the Lloyd Center, are not available at the Red Tail site. The increased financial burden of choosing this site would, we assume, fall to the taxpayers. Given the many studies showing the dubious financial merits of publicly funded sports arenas, it seems to us irresponsible to choose a site with no governmental benefits and which would incur significant infrastructure costs that other sites would not.

Environmental – Red Tail is not only a large green space, with all the benefits that brings, it is also the home to several nesting bird species (including bald eagles) and is the home to a great many other species. Destroying this habitat (even an artificially manicured one) and greatly increasing the amount of air and noise pollution in the area does not seem to be a wise use of our resources.

These are simply outlines of our concerns. We intend to pursue each one in greater detail as we add more members to our group, including through the use of traffic and environmental studies.

We hope you are successful in your efforts to bring Major League Baseball to Portland, but only if you are able to do so at a more suitable location.

Sincerely,

Save our Red Tail Community

Cc: Mayor Ted Wheeler ([mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:mayorwheeler@portlandoregon.gov))

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