

Lisa Lynn Chapman
Testimony for SB1

Greetings. My name is Lisa Lynn Chapman, and I am here testifying on my own behalf.

I am here in opposition to SB1 for several reasons. I believe the use of public funding for building stadiums is a poor use of taxpayer funds and rarely benefits the community as a whole.

This isn't my own opinion. In fact, a survey of the American Economics Association members found that 85 percent agreed that state and local governments should eliminate subsidies to professional sports franchises.¹

Almost all empirical studies find there is little to no tangible impacts of sports teams and facilities on local economic activity, and the venue subsidies far exceed any economic benefits.²

While studies show there are important intangible benefits to hosting sports teams, these benefits don't necessarily spill over into all communities.³ The positive intangible benefits do not justify the cost of the included disamenities, including associated crime, congestion, and the level of subsidies.⁴

Additionally, stadiums are bad for the environment. The congested roads, delays in traffic, and additional miles translate to a cost of over \$7 million per year in social costs.⁵

¹ Bradbury, John Charles and Coates, Dennis and Humphreys, Brad R., The Impact of Professional Sports Franchises and Venues on Local Economies: A Comprehensive Survey (January 31, 2022). Journal of Economic Surveys, forthcoming, Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4022547> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4022547>

² *Ibid.*

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Mashayekh, Yeganeh, Paulina Jaramillo, Mikhail Chester, Chris T. Hendrickson, and Christopher L. Weber (2011) "Costs of automobile air emissions in U.S. metropolitan areas," Transportation Research Record, 2233 (1), 120–127.

Specifically regarding this deal, John Fisher, the owner, has a history of dealing in poor faith with the City of Oakland. As part of the Waterfront Ballpark District Project, John Fisher and the A's negotiated with the community and the City of Oakland on a comprehensive Community Benefits Plan the project would deliver \$450 million in affordable housing, environmental remediation, infrastructure improvements, and jobs for locals. Dave Kaval speaking for Fisher, acknowledged that he never intended to pay for the community benefits.⁶

Additionally, John Fisher refuses to invest in the A's to develop a winning team. Their current payroll is approximately \$37.9 million as compared to the \$200 million invested by the New York Yankees and the Mets.⁷ How is this bottom-barrel team an attraction for tourists or locals?

For these and many other reasons, I am opposed to the Nevada Legislature investing MY money in this project.

Thank you for your time.

⁶ The Oaklandside, [Could the A's waterfront ballpark be a good deal for Oakland?](#), July 9, 2021

⁷ [Sportskeeda, Oakland Athletics Payroll. Where do the A's rank among the teams with the most expensive rosters in the league?](#), January 14, 2023