



Baseball stadium questions

From bill wheeler <billwheeler77@yahoo.com>
Date Wed 5/14/2025 8:03 PM
To jmartinnoj@hotmail.com <jmartinnoj@hotmail.com>

John,

The idea that Everett taxpayers should even consider spending \$100–\$130 million to build a new downtown stadium — displacing residents and businesses through eminent domain — is completely detached from reality.

Major League Baseball doesn't get to hold our city hostage. Option 2 is nothing more than a cash grab disguised as economic development, and the people of Everett shouldn't be fooled. Let's be clear: this is not about baseball. This is about special interests trying to raid public funds for private gain.

Refurbishing Funko Field is the common-sense solution. It costs less, preserves what we already have, keeps rent money flowing to our public schools instead of draining city coffers, and avoids displacing our neighbors.

I support keeping the AquaSox at Funko Field. I support maintaining local control over local resources. And I absolutely oppose handing over our city's future to Major League Baseball or any outside corporate entity.

Moreover, it's worth noting that the city has already paid substantial sums to the Bargreen family, who are among the property owners in the proposed downtown stadium area. In 2020, the Port of Everett paid the Bargreens \$590,000 over a dispute concerning the color of gantry cranes, following a previous \$330,000 settlement in 2017. These disputes have cost the port over \$1 million since the early 2000s. [HeraldNet.com](https://www.heraldnet.com)

It's ironic how we keep giving them money. The freeloading has to stop.

Sincerely,

— Dr. Bill Wheeler
Candidate for Everett City Council, District 1
www.takebackyourtown.com