

Edward Suslovic
Portland
LD 2258

Chairs Grohoski and Perry and distinguished members of the Taxation Committee,
My name is Ed Suslovic and I am a resident of Portland.

I am writing in strong and enthusiastic support of LD 2258, An Act to Create and
Income Tax Credit for Investment in a Team's Qualified Minor League Baseball
Facility to Keep the Team in the State sponsored by Senate President Troy Jackson.
Having served on the Taxation Committee several years ago, I am keenly aware of the
high level of scrutiny that bills such as these should and must receive from you all.
After such scrutiny, I am confident that you will support this bill as I do. I have also
served on the Portland City Council including one term as Mayor and several years on
the Finance Committee so I bring that perspective as well.

Simply put, this bill rewards in a small but important way a private capital investment
in a public facility that will benefit Mainers well into the future. No tax credits flow to
the investor unless they actually make the investment in the City of Portland owned
Hadlock Field AND continue to occupy and pay rent to the City of Portland. There is
absolutely no downside to this bill.

Why are the SeaDogs such an important asset to the State of Maine you ask? I hope
you have read the economic impact study that details the multimillion dollar impacts
including payroll, purchased goods and services, and increased tourism spending.
What the study does not make clear is that many of these jobs go to high school and
college students for their first real jobs as well as senior citizens who work at the
games as a way of making ends meet on a fixed income. These are critical jobs that
meet a real need in the labor market.

I must point out that during the baseball season that wasn't due to COVID, the
SeaDogs continued to pay both front office staff AND all game day employees as if
the season actually took place!

In closing, I urge a Unanimous Ought To Pass vote out of this distinguished and hard
working committee. The State of Maine will end up with a like new minor league
stadium that meets all current MLB requirements insuring that Mainers will continue
to have access to these jobs as well as the enjoyment of watching future major league
players play ball!

Thank you for your work and attention to this matter.
Ed Suslovic