

Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation. My name is Katie Roy. I am a resident of Lewiston. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in favor of LD 2258.

During the 2016 and 2017 seasons I worked as an intern for the Sea Dogs. I was drawn to the team because of my love for baseball and the unique opportunity to see how a top notch organization like them does business. During my time with them my customer service skills improved greatly and I learned what it was to become a team player. Working at Hadlock never felt like work. Any chance I get to talk to college students looking for a career in sports, I point them towards the Sea Dogs. It's a once in a lifetime opportunity. I truly believe I would not be where I am today in my career if it had not been for my experience with the team.

After I left my internship I moved away from Maine. Through the twists and turns of life, I moved back and found myself working for the Sea Dogs again. This time on the weekends as a part time usher. It's still the same amazing experience and always a great day at the ball park. I can't imagine Maine without the Sea Dogs. I watched a very similar situation take place in Rhode Island when the Paw Sox ended up leaving for Massachusetts. I would hate to see that happen here.

The Sea Dogs truly are a family. You'll here in testimony today how many interns, current, and former employees hold a special place in their heart for the team. I'll share a story with you about why that is true for me. When I was an intern I would always say hello to our former President, Charlie Eshbach. Charlie was a legend in minor league baseball and we were so fortunate to have him lead the team for so long. He would always say hello back, but I wasn't sure he knew my name. A few years later I moved back home and picked up some shifts at Hadlock. I saw Charlie before a game and said hi to him. He looked right at me and said "welcome home." That's the kind of business that plays ball in Portland. One that values their employees long after they are gone.

I honestly feel that is how people feel about Hadlock and the Sea Dogs. It's a version of home for them.

I urge you, please vote ought to pass on this bill.