

Will Ikard
Bath
LD 2258

Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry, and members of the Joint Committee on Taxation,

My name is Will Ikard, I live in Bath, and I'm a life-long Red Sox and Sea Dogs fan. I'm writing to urge you to oppose LD 2258, an act to provide a needless tax break to a powerful and profitable, out-of-state company.

My family and I go to many games a year. My children proudly call us "a baseball family." We love Slugger, the accessibility of the players, the kindness of the staff, and definitely the Sea Dog Biscuits. It continues to amaze my children when a player we saw up close here in Portland gets promoted to the majors and we get to watch him on TV.

I would be heartbroken if the Sea Dogs private equity owners decided to move this team away from Maine. But I would be even more heartbroken if we gave them a huge tax break to stay and didn't make the many other critical investments in Maine people that only government is equipped to handle. Senate President Jackson's bill to invest in child care (a lack of which is the biggest drag on Maine's economy), Secretary Bellows's request for additional staff at the SOS to safely and efficiently administer our elections, and the rightful demands of state employees and teachers to be paid a fair wage for their critical work all come to mind.

THOSE are the investments we need to be making first. Then we might consider giving money away to wealthy investors and the private equity firms that feed them. Thank you.