



Testimony of David W. Dumont, Vice President, Operations

In Support of LD 2258, An Act to Create an Income Tax Credit for Investments in a Team's Qualified Minor League Baseball Facility to Keep the Team in the State

March 14, 2024

Members of the Taxation Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for tax credits aimed at modernizing Hadlock Field, home of the Portland Sea Dogs. As an individual who has worked closely with the Sea Dogs organization for over 20 years, I believe that investing in this iconic venue is not only beneficial for the Sea Dogs, but also for the community and the entire region.

Hadlock Field has long been a beloved gathering place for families. Its intimate setting allows fans of all ages to enjoy America's favorite pastime up close. Whether it's a child's first baseball game or a grandparent sharing memories with their grandchildren, Hadlock Field fosters a sense of togetherness and community.

The Sea Dogs consistently deliver high-quality baseball. Their commitment to player development is evident, as we often witness future Red Sox stars honing their skills right here in Portland, Maine. The quality of baseball is unmatched, and the value for the fans is superb. For many Maine families, the cost and travel to attend a Red Sox game may be unattainable; this great venue may be the closest many in this state will get to a major league baseball game.

The Portland Sea Dogs are more than just a baseball team—they are a vital community partner. The Sea Dogs actively engage within our community, and their impact extends far beyond the diamond. They raise funds for wonderful charitable organizations, such as the Maine Children's Cancer Program. The Sea Dogs organization raises over \$250,000 annually for local charities. By supporting the modernization of Hadlock Field, we invest in an organization that gives back to

local communities. Without the Sea Dogs, who will step in to provide the financial support that many of these charities rely on?

Modernizing Hadlock Field isn't just about baseball; it's about boosting our local economy. A revitalized stadium attracts visitors, generates revenue, and creates jobs. The economic impact is realized beyond the stadium and helps support many local businesses. We must recognize the ripple effect that a thriving Sea Dogs franchise has on business, tourism, and the overall community. There are so many cities across the country willing to invest tens of millions in new modern facilities to attract high-quality franchises to their markets. These regions fully understand the positive economic and social impact these franchises bring to local communities.

Hadlock Field isn't just a ballpark; it's a hub of excitement and fun in Portland. From thrilling games to firework nights, the Sea Dogs provide entertainment that brings families, friends, and groups together in a fun and safe environment. Let's ensure that this venue continues to be a beacon of high-quality entertainment and a vital community partner for years to come.

In conclusion, I urge the Taxation Committee to consider the immense value of Hadlock Field and its role in our community. By providing tax credits for its modernization, we invest in a legacy that will resonate with fans, families, and the community for generations.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Maine Operations: Portland, Bangor, Presque Isle

Phone: 207 232-8718