



Testimony of Garrett Mason  
In Opposition to LD 1857

**An Act to Expand Property Tax Relief for Veterans and Their Survivors and to Modify Certain Corporate Tax Expenditures**

Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation. My name is Garrett Mason. I am a resident of Lisbon Falls and a partner at Dirigo Public Affairs. I am here on behalf of the Portland Sea Dogs to respectfully oppose LD 1857, specifically the provisions that repeal the qualified professional baseball facility tax credit enacted by the previous Legislature.

The Sea Dogs are proud to be Maine's home team, not just in name, but in unwavering commitment to our state, our fans, and our community. We are particularly proud to contribute tens of thousands of dollars each year to organizations that support Maine veterans, including Honor Flight Maine and Wreaths Across America. We strongly support the expansion of veterans' property tax exemptions included in Part A of this bill, but that support should not come at the expense of targeted economic development tools that have helped institutions like ours remain competitive and committed to Maine.

The Portland Sea Dogs made substantial business decisions based on the professional baseball facility tax credit passed with bipartisan support in the last legislative session. LD 2258 from the 131st Legislature stood on its own merits, achieved bipartisan enactment in both houses, and was signed by the Governor. That credit was not a giveaway; it was an incentive designed to recognize the public and economic value that a professional team brings to Maine's largest city and the surrounding region. Thousands of Maine families, tourists, and local businesses benefit directly and indirectly from our games and community events.

Repealing the tax credit just one year after its enactment sends a message that Maine is not a reliable partner. It penalizes those who acted in good faith and discourages future investment in economic and cultural infrastructure. If Maine wants to continue attracting and retaining assets like the Sea Dogs, then we must maintain a stable and predictable policy environment.

For these reasons, we urge the Committee to reject Part B of LD 1857. Let's keep our commitments, support our veterans, and protect the economic engines that help make Maine a great place to live, work, and play.

Thank you for your time and consideration.