



Pawsox Hearings <pawsoxhearings@gmail.com>

Peter J Sheil

1 message

Peter J Sheil <humanresourced@cox.net>
Reply-To: Peter J Sheil <humanresourced@cox.net>
To: pawsoxhearings@gmail.com

Tue, Oct 10, 2017 at 12:56 PM

Name Peter J Sheil

Email humanresourced@cox.net

Address (optional) 142 Wampanoag Lane

Affiliation (optional)

Comment THIS IS ALL LIES.

Submit a document to the committee (optional) PAWSOX GREED.docx

 **PAWSOX GREED.docx**
12K

AUGUST 2017

DEAR RHODE ISLANDERS:

Since Dr. Charles Steinberg'S (now PawSox president) cynical and profound lie that he had **no information** on the PawSox owners amazingly greedy subsidy to relocate the franchise to Providence, we should not **believe anything** they say.

This subsidy proposal was so completely in the public domain with every newspaper and talk radio show from Providence to Boston to Worcester covering it, the dear Doctor would have had to live under a rock not to be aware. The lie was 'gasp' worthy.

Two years on, they are still pushing this non-sense with a so-called revenue neutral subsidy.

If this stadium is such a great deal, the billionaires could easily finance it.

Please just say NO to another Studio 38 like money grab.

Peter



Pawsox Hearings <pawsoxhearings@gmail.com>

Rick Nadeau

2 messages

Rick Nadeau <rcnadeau@cox.net>
Reply-To: Rick Nadeau <rcnadeau@cox.net>
To: pawsoxhearings@gmail.com

Tue, Oct 10, 2017 at 3:57 PM

Name Rick Nadeau

Email rcnadeau@cox.net

Address (optional) Coventry RI

Affiliation (optional) None

Comment Testimony from October 3 Senate hearing is attached.

Submit a document to the committee (optional) Pawsox Points Oct 3 2017.docx



Pawsox Points Oct 3 2017.docx
26K

Rick Nadeau <rcnadeau@cox.net>
Reply-To: Rick Nadeau <rcnadeau@cox.net>
To: pawsoxhearings@gmail.com

Tue, Oct 10, 2017 at 3:57 PM

Name Rick Nadeau

Email rcnadeau@cox.net

Address (optional) Coventry RI

Affiliation (optional)

Comment Testimony from Oct 11 Senate hearing is attached.

Submit a document to the committee (optional) Pawsox Points Oct 11 2017.docx



Pawsox Points Oct 11 2017.docx
19K

Introduction

Long time Pawsox fan, 15 year season ticket holder, travel to many ballparks around the country and several internationally

Hearing focus: The committee will examine the economic model and review state level risk analysis, and take public testimony.

Risk is unavoidable, regardless of action or „no action“

Perform due diligence in an open fashion, weigh the various elements & tradeoffs, and decide

Many variables not in our control, but one thing we can control is selection of partners

Key partners for the State of RI are the city of Pawtucket & the Pawsox management team

Lots of questions last week about the City of Pawtucket, which the committee has for consideration

Before we turn to the Pawsox management let's first reflect on a couple of other RI management teams

Almacs – the reference point for all RI driving directions – 22 years after they closed the doors

Why could Almacs not succeed while Dave's Markets have thrived? Were they really trying?

Benny's - didn't adapt to the changing retail landscape (not alone in this)

Marketing was static (newspaper ads, product choices, store layouts, website). Were they really trying?

No doubt exists that the Pawsox management is trying, and has been for a long time, now led by:

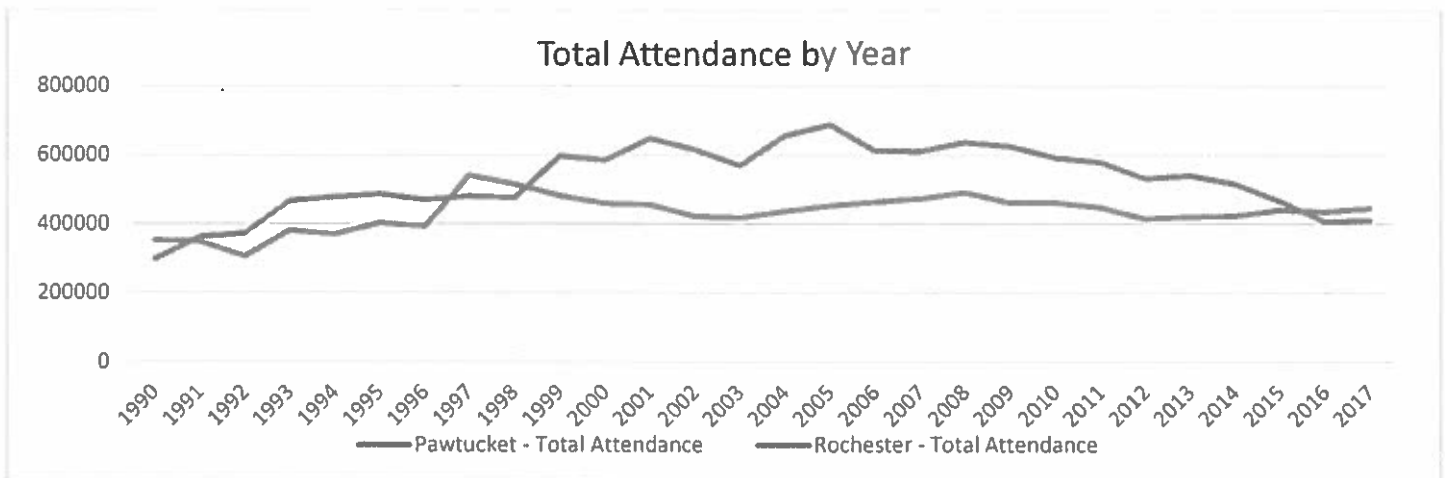
- Larry Lucchino – created a new model for ballparks at Camden Yards, built a successful „downtown park“ in San Diego, yet preserved Fenway despite claims by previous ownership that the team couldn't succeed in that facility – so „building new“ is not his only approach
- Mike Tamburro – 40 years of experience in Pawtucket, key to building the organization from zero (with Mondor & Schechweimer), has adapted to changing times consistently over the years, and continued to do so in recent
- Main point – these are experienced people, not Curt Shilling-types playing a game they don't understand; their judgement that a new stadium is needed is not an „automatic“ and not arrived at casually.
- Next generation of management (e.g. Dan Rea, Joe Goldberg) are smart, capable, enthusiastic; working under the guidance of the old pros Larry & Mike they provide the energy to make it work in the future (maybe the next Tamburro & Schwecheimer?)
- The Providence ballpark effort, which was not led by this group, was a mess from Day 1 - they know it, they get it, they have regrouped, and have performed their own due diligence before coming back to the table

At heart Pawsox management would love to stay at McCoy, but....

- Baseball is competing with a lot of other interests for attracting customers (aka fans)
- The business model is changing – ballparks need to meet higher expectations, especially in the minor leagues
- Consider „standard features“ in cars today versus 10 to 20 years ago – what was „luxury“ has become „necessity“
- Fixing the old won't make it new – try adding central air to a 100 year old home heated by hot water, or even just modern cabling – it costs a lot and requires many tradeoffs
- The downtown model has been demonstrated in a number of locations: Louisville, Indianapolis, Norfolk, Toledo, and the 1st AAA park built with this strategy, Rochester

Compare Rochester's Frontier Field to Pawtucket's McCoy Stadium

- Rochester - new in 1997; steady attendance since 2000; 5% increase since 2014
- McCoy – refurbished in 1999; peak attendance in 2005; in decline since; 40% off peak in 2017; 20% drop since 2014



2017

	<u>vs 2000</u>	<u>vs 2005</u>	<u>vs 2010</u>	<u>vs 2014</u>
Pawtucket - Total Attendance	-30%	-40%	-31%	-20%
Rochester - Total Attendance	-3%	-1%	-4%	5%

Conclusions:

- While there are many risks for this committee to consider in this process it is clear that the Pawsox management is not one of them. They have a long history of success built on honest hard work. This isn't 38 Studios playing a game they don't understand.
- Experience in Rochester & elsewhere tells us the „build new downtown“ model can work.
- What we need from the legislature is leadership, real leadership, that is focused on the road ahead rather than the rear view mirror, keeping in mind that the past should inform the future but should never dictate the future.
- So let's make a responsible agreement that include appropriate oversight, and see to it that this oversight will in fact be exercised.
- And then let's build the ballpark!



Pawsox Hearings <pawsoxhearings@gmail.com>

Jan Brodie

1 message

Jan Brodie <jbrodie@pawtucketfoundation.org>
Reply-To: Jan Brodie <jbrodie@pawtucketfoundation.org>
To: pawsoxhearings@gmail.com

Tue, Oct 10, 2017 at 5:57 PM

Name Jan Brodie

Email jbrodie@pawtucketfoundation.org

Address (optional)

Affiliation (optional)

Comment File attached. Thank you.

Submit a document to the committee (optional) TPF Testimony for House Hearings.pdf

 **TPF Testimony for House Hearings.pdf**
86K



October 10, 2017

Testimony for the State House of Representatives Hearing

I am the Executive Director of the Pawtucket Foundation, an organization that represents the for-profit and not for profit businesses of the City of Pawtucket. The Foundation is and has been, dedicated to the advancement of Pawtucket's economic development, particularly in the downtown and riverfront areas of the City, for the past 16 years.

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You have heard from others how Pawtucket is poised to go from a city under stress to a renaissance city. With this public park at Slater Mill located in the center of downtown, on a site that has been a near-abandoned eyesore at the entrance to the state and city, with a financing deal that pays for itself, the city tips decisively to the success side of the equation as does the state.

As I am focused on economic development, I am asking what more could we wish for...

How else are we going to get a fully vetted, 45 million dollar private investment to commit to the Blackstone Valley?

How else do we get the eyes on the city and region, the swell in population, the destination entertainment, the downtown development that will help make the \$50 million train station and bus hub attractive to investors, and to develop a pride in the city and region consistent with its National Park status?

How else do we get 600,000 people coming to downtown for games alone, plus 100's of 1000's more for the other 150 days to be programmed at the Ballpark...

How else do we get the pledge of this private investment team to cover cost overruns so the state bears little to no risk?

How else do we get a \$80+M investment that pays for itself, at no additional cost to the taxpayer, but that would cost the state \$1.9 million in lost revenue if they left.

The park opens doors to opportunity in a region that has been long neglected and sends a message to the entire state that what is unique to RI will be supported by its state leaders. It would be in no one's interest to send the negative message to businesses and investors outside RI, that the state did not welcome or support this large private investment from a savvy and successful team with a very high profile business.

I encourage you to embrace the positive and support the new Ballpark at Slater Park as the Pawtucket Foundation does.

Jan A. Brodie
Executive Director
The Pawtucket Foundation
www.pawtucketfoundation.org
401-725-4400



Pawsox Hearings <pawsoxhearings@gmail.com>

Michael McDole

1 message

Michael McDole <mmcdole@cox.net>
Reply-To: Michael McDole <mmcdole@cox.net>
To: pawsoxhearings@gmail.com

Tue, Oct 10, 2017 at 8:34 PM

Name Michael McDole

Email mmcdole@cox.net

Address (optional) Narragansett RI

Affiliation (optional)

Comment I support the State of RI helping finance the new PawSox stadium in Pawtucket

Submit a document to the committee (optional)



Pawsox Hearings <pawsoxhearings@gmail.com>

new Pawtucket ballpark shouldn't even be considered

1 message

S P <sp4492@gmail.com>

Thu, Oct 12, 2017 at 11:49 AM

To: pawsoxhearings@gmail.com, jplume@rilegislature.gov, sen-conley@rilegislature.gov, sen-dipalma@rilegislature.gov, sen-felag@rilegislature.gov, sen-pearson@rilegislature.gov, sen-ciccione@rilegislature.gov, sen-daponte@rilegislature.gov, sen-kettle@rilegislature.gov, sen-seveney@rilegislature.gov, sen-sosnowski@rilegislature.gov, sen-doyle@rilegislature.gov

Here are some financial breakdowns from the "[Economic & Fiscal Benefits Analysis Of a New Downtown Pawtucket Ballpark](#)" report, published 10/3/2017 by B & D Venues:

- The budget for a new 9,500-capacity ballpark is *\$76 million*.
- \$18.3 million (24%) of activity and wages are sourced within the state – Subsequent to B&D's analysis, the budget was adjusted to *\$73 million*.
- Over 30-years, the ballpark is projected to generate \$55.3 million in tax revenues to the State and \$3.4 million to the City of Pawtucket.
- "Ballpark attendance is the primary driver of economic and fiscal benefits"
- Team's attendance has decreased over the past ten seasons from 9000 down to 6000
- New attendance projections for the new ballpark climb only up to 8,100-- not even what the attendance numbers were 10 seasons ago.
- The city and state will NEVER get back the return on this terrible investment
- Even the "ancillary" investments won't return equal or greater financial tax revenue reimbursements back to the city of Pawtucket and the state of RI.

Summary of overall ballpark investment totals:

- Ballpark- \$73 million
- Apex + Division St. investment- \$147.6 million
- Tidewater investment- \$51.4 million

Total investment- \$272 million

Potential (tax) Return on Investment:

- Including the ballpark, the Apex site is estimated to generate approximately \$36.5 million to the City and \$93.3 million to State *over 30 years.*

***Total potential (tax revenue) return on investment:
-\$129.8 million***

What would make up the \$142.2 million investment shortfall difference? All of the money growing on Rhode Island's trees?

General Treasurer Seth Magaziner, educated at Brown at Yale, struck out last night at the public meeting at NEIT when he stated the new ballpark is "affordable for the city and state" and that the state has "acceptable levels of public debt" and can afford to take out 1.2 billion more in new bonds over the next 10 years. When Magaziner referenced the pension liabilities for the state and its cities, he practically dismissed the topic like those that kept swatting at the fly buzzing around the meeting room.

Magaziner stated that he initially was "hesitant" in supporting the new ballpark but he believes now that it will be "a win." I'd love to know what changed his mind. It's not a win for Rhode Island taxpayers. When one comes from a privileged life where they have the opportunity to be educated at Brown and Yale, that Ivy League education still doesn't necessarily give one the type of common sense, street smart understanding of what every day middle class taxpayers face, living in the God forsaken money sucking state of RI.

Magaziner failed to touch upon the one thing last night when he shoulder shrugged away his simple solution of just "fixing the pension plans" ... that one thing being *TAX INCREASES*. *I know it well living in a RI city that has been increasingly taxed for 18 straight years and has total accrued pension*

liabilities totaling just over \$1 billion, while the massive liability debt continues to increase every single fiscal year. What would ARC payments be without tax increases? The City of Pawtucket had to endure yet another year of tax increases to keep up with its debt—another tax increase of 3.74%. So I asked the question last night at the meeting and I ask it again now—If you couldn't increase taxes in the city of Pawtucket another fiscal year, would the city still consider the new ballpark investment? We all know what the answer is.

And the “backstops” ...

After 38 Studios, no one should have to stress to our Senators or any other legislator that every ounce of protection should be put in place to protect the taxpayers of RI from any investment deal that could potentially strike out. 38 studios had insurance yet RI taxpayers still got stuck with the payback bill. This new ballpark deal quite frankly, shouldn't even be on the pitchers mound. Why is it? Because the SPECIAL INTERESTS once again have smoke coming out of their nostrils to get their hands on temporary jobs for themselves, and they could care less about what comes out on the other side. It's all about the “now” --forget about the “later.” It's all about what's good for me, for us, and who cares about *them*.

Rhode Islander's are nostalgic people. We love our history, we love where we came from, we love our memories and we want to preserve our history. It's why people from all over even visit Rhode Island in the first place—because of its *history*. McCoy Stadium is part of that nostalgia equation. McCoy also unfortunately falls under the same predicament as our Rhode Island public school buildings- neglected and deteriorating because the taxpayer's money was being funneled into the dark abyss of pension liability funding that continues to destroy our cities and state. The state is looking at \$2.2 billion that is needed to fix our school buildings (\$176 million needed for Pawtucket's schools) which is double our state's 10 year bond borrowing capacity, and our cities' pension plans are no where near being “fixed.” Yet our Brown and Yale

educated General Treasurer thinks a new ballpark investment is the way to go. Sorry Magaziner, you're way off base.

Rhode Island leadership should be focused on fixing the massively unfunded pension and OPEB liabilities that are destroying cities. Whatever "tools" have been delivered to cities by the state to start those fixes, are still sitting in the box, unopened and unused, and everything continues to fall apart. Tackling municipal pension liabilities and the massive financial burden sitting on the shoulders of every RI taxpayer should be the number one priority, before even thinking about burdening the RI taxpayers for more. This new ballpark deal is nothing more than a game full of foul balls that would break and bloody the faces of RI taxpayers. The deal shouldn't even be considered.

RI can't keep borrowing and taxing our way into future investments. It's bad business. Cities need to make tough decisions when it comes to managing their massively unfunded pension liabilities, then use the savings to reinvest it back to fixing school buildings and historical landmarks like McCoy Stadium.

Stacia Huyler

Warwick, RI

www.warwickwatch.com



Pawsox Hearings <pawsoxhearings@gmail.com>

Michael Aguiar

1 message

Michael Aguiar <teamaguiarconsulting@outlook.com>
Reply-To: Michael Aguiar <teamaguiarconsulting@outlook.com>
To: pawsoxhearings@gmail.com

Thu, Oct 12, 2017 at 12:22 PM

Name Michael Aguiar**Email** teamaguiarconsulting@outlook.com**Address (optional)** .**Affiliation (optional)** Aguiar Consulting

Comment As a long time Rhode Island resident we cannot lose sight of the attendance issue at McCoy over the last few years. The ballpark cannot be used in the winter months & competes with other venues. In order for any proposal to work it should be on the ballot for approval.

Great work by the mayor of the city & his team.

Ask yourself the question will people travel to Pawtucket? Why are they not now?

Its Fan interest that relates to minor league baseball in Rhode Island due to popularity of youth soccer in the city of Pawtucket.

Michael Aguiar
Aguiar Consulting

Submit a document to the committee (optional)



Pawsox Hearings <pawsoxhearings@gmail.com>

Richard Carriere

1 message

Richard Carriere <Richard.G.Carriere@morganstanley.com>
Reply-To: Richard Carriere <Richard.G.Carriere@morganstanley.com>
To: pawsoxhearings@gmail.com

Thu, Oct 12, 2017 at 1:22 PM

Name Richard Carriere**Email** Richard.G.Carriere@morganstanley.com**Address (optional)** One Financial Plaza, 19th Floor Providence, RI 02903**Affiliation (optional)**

Comment I'm writing to let you know that I do support the Pawtucket Red Sox in their quest to build a stadium in Pawtucket. I do see this as an economic boost to Pawtucket, and accordingly the State of Rhode Island. I personally have been a lifelong fan of the Paw Sox, but most importantly the Paw Sox have been a key client development vehicle for my businesses as a financial advisor, and years ago as a business owner of my staffing company. A new Paw Sox stadium can be an economic jewel for our state.

No one is talking about the growth in our State's Latino, Hispanic, and Asian population in Rhode Island. This demographic group has a love for baseball. I actually see this trend as a reason for increased attendance in the future. I also believe that Pawtucket has done a great job in revitalizing their city, and this will help Pawtucket's revitalization efforts.

I see Rhode Island's taxpayer support of the Pawtucket Red Sox Stadium as an investment for Pawtucket and the citizens of Rhode Island. This is an investment that we can all be proud of.

Please call me if you would like to discuss this in more detail.

Sincerely,

Richard Carriere

Submit a document to the committee (optional)



Pawsox Hearings <pawsoxhearings@gmail.com>

Sally Owen

1 message

Sally Owen <Sally@sallyowen.com>
Reply-To: Sally Owen <Sally@sallyowen.com>
To: pawsoxhearings@gmail.com

Thu, Oct 12, 2017 at 5:10 PM

Name Sally Owen

Email Sally@sallyowen.com

Address (optional) Westerly

Affiliation (optional)

Comment I am totally in support of the new Pawtucket Red Sox stadium.. We can't afford to lose any jobs and Rhode Islanders deserve something to be proud of! Why let this opportunity go elsewhere?

Submit a document to the committee (optional)



Pawsox Hearings <pawsoxhearings@gmail.com>

Jason Romblad

1 message

Jason Romblad <Heyjay1971@verizon.net>
Reply-To: Jason Romblad <Heyjay1971@verizon.net>
To: pawsoxhearings@gmail.com

Sat, Oct 14, 2017 at 6:15 AM

Name Jason Romblad

Email Heyjay1971@verizon.net

Address (optional)

Affiliation (optional) Unaffiliated

Comment As a taxpayer of RI, I would not like any monies be used for a stadium, for a privately owned company to utilize. The Pawtucket Red Sox should be solely responsible for the cost of any building/stadium.

Submit a document to the committee (optional)



Pawsox Hearings <pawsoxhearings@gmail.com>

Jonathan Powers

1 message

Jonathan Powers <jpowers7883@gmail.com>
Reply-To: Jonathan Powers <jpowers7883@gmail.com>
To: pawsoxhearings@gmail.com

Sat, Oct 14, 2017 at 11:20 AM

Name Jonathan Powers

Email jpowers7883@gmail.com

Address (optional)

Affiliation (optional)

Comment As a new homeowner in Pawtucket, I am emotionally and financially invested in the growth and development of our City. I believe the Ballpark at Slater Mill is a wonderful opportunity to continue the revival of Pawtucket and to steer this City in the right direction for both the near future and beyond. I am invested! Let's make the right decision and continue to develop and let this City prosper!

Submit a document to the committee (optional)



Pawsox Hearings <pawsoxhearings@gmail.com>

Richard Leonti

1 message

Richard Leonti <Richardleonti@cox.net>
Reply-To: Richard Leonti <Richardleonti@cox.net>
To: pawsoxhearings@gmail.com

Sat, Oct 14, 2017 at 4:12 PM

Name Richard Leonti

Email Richardleonti@cox.net

Address (optional) 12 gerald ave

Affiliation (optional) None

Comment We need to keep the Paw Sox here in Rhode island. This team is an economic engine for the state. We need to protect our heritage. There was not this much debate with 38 studios we banked on a guy with zero experience. This team has generated much revenue for the state along with great family memories. Do the right thing for our state
APPROVE NOW !!!!!!!!

Thanks
Rhode island tax payer

Submit a document to the committee (optional)



Pawsox Hearings <pawsoxhearings@gmail.com>

Brianna Leonti

1 message

Brianna Leonti <Bleonti91@gmail.com>
Reply-To: Brianna Leonti <Bleonti91@gmail.com>
To: pawsoxhearings@gmail.com

Sat, Oct 14, 2017 at 6:22 PM

Name Brianna Leonti

Email Bleonti91@gmail.com

Address (optional)

Affiliation (optional)

Comment Please ker the Paw Sox in RI

Submit a document to the committee (optional)



Pawsox Hearings <pawsoxhearings@gmail.com>

Francis Gutierrez

1 message

pawsoxhearings@gmail.com <pawsoxhearings@gmail.com>
Reply-To: pawsoxhearings@gmail.com
To: pawsoxhearings@gmail.com

Mon, Oct 16, 2017 at 7:31 AM

Name Francis Gutierrez**Email** Suprtek@cox.net**Address (optional)****Affiliation (optional)**

Comment This message is to document my opposition to the use of public funds to subsidize any sports stadium anywhere in Rhode Island.

Spending money on privileged athletes and wealthy team owners is disgraceful considering the many social problems in our state.

Please consider our less fortunate and needy citizens before thinking about wasting taxpayers dollars on opulent projects that benefit few.

Respectfully submitted for your review.

Submit a document to the committee (optional)



Pawsox Hearings <pawsoxhearings@gmail.com>

John Rosado

1 message

John Rosado <john.a.rosado0015@gmail.com>
Reply-To: John Rosado <john.a.rosado0015@gmail.com>
To: pawsoxhearings@gmail.com

Mon, Oct 16, 2017 at 8:11 AM

Name John Rosado**Email** john.a.rosado0015@gmail.com**Address (optional)****Affiliation (optional)** Young Voices

Comment My name is John Rosado. I'm in the 10th grade at Classical high school in Providence and I'm a member of Young Voices. I am here to express my support for the PawSox proposal.

Baseball means a lot to me. It's a way for me to escape reality. I leave all my worries behind as I throw the ball to second base from center field.

My family is a big baseball family. I grew up watching the sport and going to PawSox games. Baseball is a huge part of my life.

I really enjoy going to PawSox games and there is a lot of history at McCoy Stadium. The PawSox played a 33 inning game and won that game against the Rochester Red Wings in 1981. This is phenomenal and is the record for the longest game in professional baseball history! Even though that was way before I was born, knowing that I sat in the same seats where history was made is just mind blowing. While I love the history at McCoy Stadium, I'm excited for the future of the PawSox and the opportunities that a new stadium will bring to our community.

As a young, aspiring baseball player, the PawSox are a symbol of hope. My uncle was being scouted to play in the MLB several years ago and unfortunately he was injured and he lost the opportunity to play in the MLB. I was watching a PawSox game when I found this out and the PawSox motivated me to play more baseball and to follow my dreams. One day I hope to make him and my family proud by making it to the MLB.

I hope our community makes the best decision for the future of the PawSox and the future of kids like me that grow up watching PawSox games dreaming of better, brighter futures.

Thank you for your time and I hope you'll remember how important the PawSox are to young people across Rhode Island.

Submit a document to the committee (optional)



Pawsox Hearings <pawsoxhearings@gmail.com>

Maryann Gorniewicz

1 message

Maryann Gorniewicz <maryanngo@hotmail.com>
Reply-To: Maryann Gorniewicz <maryanngo@hotmail.com>
To: pawsoxhearings@gmail.com

Mon, Oct 16, 2017 at 11:02 AM

Name Maryann Gorniewicz**Email** maryanngo@hotmail.com**Address (optional)****Affiliation (optional)**

Comment No taxpayer money. The Paw Sox owners have enough money to do this deal since they think the Paw Sox should stay in RI. If it is such a good deal why do R.I. tax payers have to put in any money without any guarantees from the owners that they will guarantee to pay any money that is not produced by the team? I would like to keep the team in R.I. but the owners need to guarantee in writing that they will cover any expenses over the 30 years that this agreement will cover. How can R.I. taxpayers be on the hook for a 30 year agreement??? Anything can happen in 30 years - so the owners must bear this responsibility. R.I. has not done well in financing this type of deal and the people involved in this deal are not listening to EXPERTS who say that the owners must do better.

I certainly hope that our leaders will not jeopardize taxpayer money. If they read the article written by Arlene Violet in the Valley Breeze they would not agree to this latest deal. Guarantees are necessary.

Submit a document to the committee (optional)



Pawsox Hearings <pawsoxhearings@gmail.com>

Bernadette Provost

1 message

Bernadette Provost <bprovos@clemson.edu>
Reply-To: Bernadette Provost <bprovos@clemson.edu>
To: pawsoxhearings@gmail.com

Wed, Oct 18, 2017 at 1:18 PM

Name Bernadette Provost

Email bprovos@clemson.edu

Address (optional)

Affiliation (optional)

Comment Please see attached testimony.

Submit a document to the committee (optional) Written testimomy.docx

 **Written testimomy.docx**
15K

With four athletic brothers, I spent many summers sweltering on a metal bench under the South Carolina sun watching tournament after tournament of travel ball. When I chose to pursue a career in sports, I was adamant that I would never work in baseball. Much to everyone's surprise, I moved to Rhode Island immediately after graduation to begin my career through an internship with the Pawtucket Red Sox baseball club. No longer sweating through inning after inning as a reluctant fan, I spent my first spring in New England trying to stay warm as I worked in MiLB.

My decision to work in community relations can be traced back to a single sentence from my sports marketing professor my junior year: "community relations is the feel good side of marketing." With that simple statement I was hooked. Sports had such a positive impact on me as a child that I wanted to share the beauty of sports with anyone and everyone.

You can imagine my delight when I was immediately able to make a difference upon arriving at the PawSox. Relationships with fans were created (after I figured out how to understand the Rhode Island accent). I've enabled a grandfather, recently in remission, the ability to bring his grandson on the field to say play ball at his first baseball game ever. I've seen veterans' families overwhelmed by the appreciation our fans have for their loved ones' sacrifices. I've hugged a proud mother whose daughter received a scholarship for college. I've made an impact.

How ironic that it's a baseball team in Pawtucket, Rhode Island that enables me to do so.

Bernadette Provost



Pawsox Hearings <pawsoxhearings@gmail.com>

Samantha Lavoie

1 message

Samantha Lavoie <samantha.lavoie94@gmail.com>
Reply-To: Samantha Lavoie <samantha.lavoie94@gmail.com>
To: pawsoxhearings@gmail.com

Wed, Oct 18, 2017 at 8:49 PM

Name Samantha Lavoie**Email** samantha.lavoie94@gmail.com**Address (optional)** 85 Aurora Drive, Warwick, RI, 02889**Affiliation (optional)** Independent

Comment I can remember hearing my family boast about how great it is to be able to see baseball right here in our own state, instead of seeing the Red Sox in Boston. Until I got older, I never understood what the Paw Sox meant for Rhode Island. They mean so much and to me we need to keep this institution here. It gives Rhode Islanders a sense of pride, and provides tourism and entertainment for everyone. Not only that but putting it right in the heart of downtown Pawtucket will only improve local businesses and bring awareness to our Slater Mill. Pawtucket is the home of innovation after all ever since 1793, and we should definitely keep our good old Paw Sox team right here!

Submit a document to the committee (optional)



Pawsox Hearings <pawsoxhearings@gmail.com>

Ross L. Nelson

1 message

Ross L. Nelson <ross.nelson@cox.com>
Reply-To: "Ross L. Nelson" <ross.nelson@cox.com>
To: pawsoxhearings@gmail.com

Thu, Oct 19, 2017 at 3:02 PM

Name Ross L. Nelson**Email** ross.nelson@cox.com**Address (optional)****Affiliation (optional)** Cox Business**Comment** Dear members of the Senate,

I write to you today expressing my full support for the Pawtucket Red Sox and their quest for a new stadium in Pawtucket – the Ballpark at Slater Mill. I have known the management team for many years and have partnered with them on many projects. They sincerely care about the local community and the overall state. Their impact to the community reaches beyond simple baseball games. They provide memories and build family bonds over generations. We all have memories of being brought to the games as kids and getting hot dogs and popcorn – it was a big treat. These bonds are part of what makes a family a family. And the PawSox are certainly part of many people's family.

Their generosity is incredible. They support so many programs that you can't possibly name them. Every single home game is a celebration of some non-profit or organization or school.

Financially viable. The stadium as proposed is a solid financial deal for the State, the City of Pawtucket and the Red Sox. Think of the impact this new stadium could have in revitalizing the downtown Pawtucket area. There is no single project that could have as big an impact as the Ballpark at Slater Mill.

I strongly urge you to support one of my closest partners in building the new stadium.

Thank you,

Submit a document to the committee (optional)



Pawsox Hearings <pawsoxhearings@gmail.com>

Christine M Sullivan

1 message

Christine M Sullivan <csullivan@pawtucketfoundation.org>
Reply-To: Christine M Sullivan <csullivan@pawtucketfoundation.org>
To: pawsoxhearings@gmail.com

Thu, Oct 19, 2017 at 3:06 PM

Name Christine M Sullivan**Email** csullivan@pawtucketfoundation.org**Address (optional)****Affiliation (optional)** The Pawtucket Foundation

Comment I am the Development Director of the Pawtucket Foundation, an organization that represents the for-profit and not for profit sectors in Pawtucket and Central Falls. For the past 16 years, The Foundation has been dedicated to the advancement of Pawtucket's economic development, particularly in the downtown and riverfront areas of the City.

Pawtucket is positioned to move from a city of economic disparity to a city of revitalization. The public park at Slater Mill is, to be located in the center of downtown; on a site that has been a near-abandoned gateway and eyesore to the city and state; and has a financing deal that pays for itself –the city, its resident and the state all benefit from the PawSox moving to the downtown.

This is an opportunity that will enhance excitement, for downtown development; for potential investors; for small businesses to thrive; and nurture a sense of pride in the city and region.

This is an opportunity that will bring people to the downtown. Just as the PawSoxs are calling Pawtucket "home", the city's struggling or vacant stores and buildings all need Stadium goes to call the city home for their recreation, work and residence.

Missing this opportunity represents over \$1.5 million lost in revenue to the state and the loss of our PawSox team to the community.

The Pawtucket Foundation embraces these positive opportunities and supports the new Ballpark at Slater Mill - I encourage your support.

Thank you.
Christine M. Sullivan
Director of Development
The Pawtucket Foundation

Submit a document to the committee (optional) CMS Verbal Testimony.docx

 **CMS Verbal Testimony.docx**
390K

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Thank you.
Christine M. Sullivan

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Pawsox Hearings <pawsoxhearings@gmail.com>

Jody Josephson

1 message

Jody Josephson <Jodyri@verizon.net>
Reply-To: Jody Josephson <Jodyri@verizon.net>
To: pawsoxhearings@gmail.com

Thu, Oct 19, 2017 at 3:19 PM

Name Jody Josephson

Email Jodyri@verizon.net

Address (optional)

Affiliation (optional)

Comment I am a Pawtucket resident and I strongly OPPOSE the proposed New Pawtucket Redsox stadium! I am retired and live on a fixed income. I DO NOT want my property taxes going up!! I think this is a bad deal for Pawtucket taxpayers. It is a complete gamble that the revenue from ticket sales will cover our \$15 million investment. Plus the City is counting on collateral business development around the stadium. Show me the list of committed businesses and projected tax revenue. There is NO list!! If the owners of the Pawtucket Redsox want a new stadium, let THEM build and pay for it. The City of Pawtucket is getting taken. Just like the cities now bending over backwards for the Amazon HQ2. Let 's not make the same mistake!

Submit a document to the committee (optional)



Pawsox Hearings <pawsoxhearings@gmail.com>

Darianyi martinez

1 message

Darianyi martinez <Darianyimartinez@gmail.com>
Reply-To: Darianyi martinez <Darianyimartinez@gmail.com>
To: pawsoxhearings@gmail.com

Thu, Oct 19, 2017 at 7:51 PM

Name Darianyi martinez

Email Darianyimartinez@gmail.com

Address (optional) 90 woodbine st apt 2 pawtucket

Affiliation (optional)

Comment As a pawtucket resident for more than 7 years a really want to my city to keep growing and the opportunity of having a new complex will be brilliant

Submit a document to the committee (optional)



Pawsox Hearings <pawsoxhearings@gmail.com>

Gene Raynor

1 message

Gene Raynor <graynor@pyrotecnico.com>
Reply-To: Gene Raynor <graynor@pyrotecnico.com>
To: pawsoxhearings@gmail.com

Fri, Oct 20, 2017 at 8:01 AM

Name Gene Raynor

Email graynor@pyrotecnico.com

Address (optional)

Affiliation (optional) Pyrotecnico

Comment Please see the attached file. Thank you

Submit a document to the committee (optional) 2017 PawSox Letter 10 19 17.docx

 **2017 PawSox Letter 10 19 17.docx**
119K



October 19, 2017

Good day to everyone,

I am writing today to express my support for Resolution 2017–S 0989 to finance and construct a new stadium for the Pawtucket Red Sox. I believe it can be a win / win / win for the team, the City of Pawtucket and the State of Rhode Island.

I did attend one of your scheduled meetings last week that was held at the New England Institute of Technology in East Greenwich. I was impressed with the preparation and presentation of the speakers. I was equally impressed with the thoughtful and responsible questions asked by the Senate Finance Committee. I had made the trip from my home in Rindge, New Hampshire and I had signed up to offer public comments. However, I had to leave earlier than expected due to a family situation at home. I was disappointed, but, it couldn't be helped.

I am a lifelong Red Sox fan. However, I have been to many more Paw Sox games than Red Sox games. It is obviously great family entertainment at a reasonable price. It is my opinion that the Paw Sox need to stay in Pawtucket. **It just wouldn't be the same if they were located anywhere else.** The potential partnership of the team, the City and the State, I believe, is the right way to proceed. Every business relationship requires some sort of investment – whether it involves ideas, time or money. The information I have read, or heard, has demonstrated to me that this process has been well thought out and that these public hearings are an excellent example of the proper approach to this investment.

My first career was at UPS for thirty-eight years. I understand and know what it means to work together with factions, or groups of people, that may have different agendas. We had hourly employees, Teamster Union



employees and management people that constantly worked together as a great Team to provide an excellent world class service to all of our customers. Pun intended – we delivered results ! This project is an opportunity for the three groups involved to work together to make this a true success for all involved.

Although I am an “*out of stater*”, I do spend a bunch of time in Rhode Island. Currently, I am a Show Producer for Pyrotecnico. We create and produce fireworks, special effects and laser displays all across the country. We produce the displays for the Pawtucket Red Sox. Our affiliation and partnership with them has provided us with excellent recognition in your State. It certainly has assisted me in being a success in the State of Rhode Island. When I tell someone that we are the company that produces the Paw Sox displays, they immediately know that we provide spectacular displays and great family entertainment. Some of our past and current Rhode Island clients include: Brown University, Moses Brown School, Bryant University, the City of Providence, Gloria Gemma Breast Cancer Research Foundation, the Town of North Providence, the City of Newport, Marble House Mansion, Fort Adams State Park, Eisenhower House, the City of Warwick, Warwick Country Club, the Town of North Kingstown, the Town of Smithfield, the Town of West Greenwich, the Town of Narragansett, the Dunes Club, and the Jamestown Rocket hogs....just to name a few !

Our partnership with the Paw Sox, and working together with the Pawtucket Fire Department and the State Fire Marshal’s Office, has resulted in great family entertainment. It is something that the Paw Sox and their loyal fans have come to expect. It has been a tremendous success and the result of each of our investments in each display. Working together does pay off.

As I understand it, this project will not just benefit the baseball team. It certainly has the potential to offer a safe public venue for local Fairs, Festivals, Concerts and perhaps even fundraising events for worthy causes. If you can get the folks come to Rhode Island, come to Pawtucket,



for these events – they are going to spend dollars while they are here. That is a win for all of you.

Generating tax revenue is another plus for this project. It is obviously way better than losing tax revenue to someone else. During my travels through New England, I have heard reports of other New England cities that would really love to lure the Pawtucket Red Sox away from you. I hope that you don't let that happen.

Thank you for your time and attention. I appreciate the opportunity to communicate with you. I urge you to please support this worthwhile project. Please keep the Paw Sox in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. I hope that each of you, in this potential business relationship, is able to find a path forward to work together to keep the Paw Sox in Pawtucket for the next thirty years.

Sincerely,

Gene Raynor

Show Producer | PYROTECNICO

800.458.4656 Office | 603.321.0605 Cell | www.pyrotecnico.com



Pawsox Hearings <pawsoxhearings@gmail.com>

James Thorsen

1 message

James Thorsen <jethorsen2@gmail.com>
Reply-To: James Thorsen <jethorsen2@gmail.com>
To: pawsoxhearings@gmail.com

Fri, Oct 20, 2017 at 1:18 PM

Name James Thorsen

Email jethorsen2@gmail.com

Address (optional) 55 Countryside Dr Cumberland, RI 02864

Affiliation (optional) private citizen

Comment I attended the first hearing, but waited for three hours before having to leave to cover at home. I was unable to testify, so am submitting the attached letter in support of the new Ball Park.

Submit a document to the committee (optional) pawsox3.docx

 **pawsox3.docx**
91K

James E. Thorsen
55 Countryside Drive
Cumberland, RI 02864

October 20, 2017

The Honorable William J. Conley, Jr., Chairman
Senate Finance Committee
State House
Providence, RI 02903

Re: Ball Park at Slater Mill

Hon. Chairman Conley:

My name is James Thorsen - and I have lived for more than half my life in Cumberland. I recently retired after 35 years of government finance experience, as a public finance investment banker, as Deputy Treasurer under Nancy Mayer and, more recently as Deputy Director of HealthSource RI. I have worked on structuring well over 100 municipal bond issues, including Oriole Park at Camden Yards in Baltimore, and the Florida Marlins Spring Training Facility in Brevard County, Florida. Although there was much public discussion, owing to their public-private nature, both of these deals were issued without voter referendum.

There are quite a few naysayers, who say public support for the team is unnecessary or against their principles. But because I believe there is a public benefit to having the PawSox in Rhode Island, specifically in a successful Ball Park, that will generate pride in our community and catalyze positive economic development, I am for a deal that involves State and City support through the issuance of bonds.

Camden Yards was financed through four new lottery scratch-off games per year dedicated by the State Lottery to generate the revenues necessary to cover debt service (RI's constitution prevents this). Brevard County, Florida financed the Marlins spring training facility through an additional penny levy on the local tourist development tax (hotel/motel). In both cases, broader public support was used as a security backstop. The same appears to be the case in the way the PawSox deal is to be structured, as Ball Park related revenues, including incremental tax receipts and ticket sales, will be used to pay financing cost.

This project is not, as some would argue, a zero-sum game, taking dollars from one pocket and putting them into another. This is especially true if used as a catalyst for additional development. Just look at community vitality around new ball parks in Memphis, Nashville, Durham or Columbus.

Can we afford this?

Others have wondered whether we can afford to "support" investment in the Ball Park, when we have so many important policy priorities. However, our support kicks in if, and only if, projected revenues fall short. As Chairman of the Finance Committee, I am sure you are all too familiar with the numbers:

1. The FY2018 State Budget projects expenditures of \$9.2 Billion

2. Expenditures from general revenue are projected to total \$3,792.8 million, including:
 - \$1.39 billion for Health and Human Services
 - \$1.39 billion for Education
 - Transportation expenditures are financed by dedicated gasoline taxes and are not a component of general revenue spending.
3. According to usgovernmentspending.com, when rolled together, Rhode Island State & Local FY2018 Spending tops over \$13.0 billion (enough to pay for roughly 155 new ball parks, every year).

As a citizen, the notion that we cannot afford to risk our support of the Ball Park if, and only if, revenues fall short, seems way out of proportion. The projected \$1.4 million in annual payments will represent approximately one hundredth of one percent of the total State Budget, four hundredths of a percent of the State General Revenues, and one tenth of one percent of the money spent on either Health and Human Services or Education.

	Budgeted Spending	Annual Payments
	\$ 1,400,000	
Total State and Local Govt	\$ 13,000,000,000	0.01%
Total State All Sources	\$ 9,200,000,000	0.02%
Total State General Revenues	\$ 3,792,700,000	0.04%
Health and Human Services	\$ 1,390,000,000	0.10%
Education	\$ 1,390,000,000	0.10%

I have seen the Ball Park financing numbers vary in press reports and, while finalizing the details is critically important, the order of government expenditure magnitude is such that if the State is having budget issues, the Ball Park will not be the reason why. It is not like we aren't spending on state priorities like education or health and humans service – and we will continue to support them as priorities – every year. But if for some reason, revenues do not materialize as projected, at least we will have a Ball Park. Clearly, we CAN afford the risk of a shortfall in this context.

Should the Owners Fund the Ball Park?

As I understand the way the financing is to be structured, the owners are putting in a majority share of the funds required to pay for the Ball Park and risking their own capital for an extended time. Increased tax revenues due from economic growth and Ball Park revenues are to pay for the City and State portion. Please consider the solid track record of the PawSox and its management in evaluating this feature, and the good will this represents as significant shift in the way many other stadium deals are structured. There is a park element that generates a public benefit and therefore a public-private partnership is appropriate in this case. As a taxpayer, I fervently support parks and recreation as part of an essential quality of life here in the State.

Is This Crony Capitalism?

According to RI Commerce Corporation - FY 2016 marked the launch of the state's new economic development toolkit proposed in 2015 enacted by the General Assembly. Economic tools include:

- [Qualified Jobs Incentive Tax Credit](#)
- [Rebuild Rhode Island Tax Credit](#)
- [Tax Increment Financing](#)
- [First Wave Closing Fund](#)
- [Wavemaker Fellowship](#)

- Main Street Rhode Island Streetscape Improvement Fund
- Anchor Institution Tax Credit
- Tax Stabilization Incentive

Some would argue that these all represent corporate welfare or crony capitalism, but as a State, we have committed to a policy of using these tools to incentivize economic activity to create and retain jobs. This Ball Park project is another way to operationalize that objective in a way that is real and immediate for a business with a 40-year track record in the State. To not move forward with the Ball Park would seem inconsistent with this policy.

Do Stadia increase Economic Value/Activity?

After browsing the internet for articles on whether minor league ball parks create economic value, I found support for arguments on both sides.

- In "The Economic Impact of Stadia and Teams: The Case of Minor League Baseball," written by Nola Agha and published in 2013 by *The Journal of Sports Economics*, found that AAA teams, A+ teams, AA stadiums, and rookie stadiums are all associated with significant positive effects on the change in local per capita income.
- In "The Ballpark Bluff: An Examination into the Impact of Independent and Minor League Baseball Stadiums on Local Economies," written by Anthony Cocuzza and published as a *Senior Thesis in Economics, The College of New Jersey* in 2015, claims to debunk the ballpark bluff and concludes that public subsidy money used to build independent and minor league baseball stadiums will likely not result in a significant positive economic impact in the local town or city where it is built.

Aside from the academic studies, the notion that the Ball Park will not generate increased economic activity is challenged by the mere rumor of a possible move to a new Ball Park. In recent press reports, landowners experienced a surge in property value fueled by speculation that a new Ball Park would be located on their property.

"Apex property price appears too high for PawSox

Owner Andrew Gates is seeking more than \$20 million for his property, said the sources, who asked to remain anonymous...(t)he site of the Apex Department Store, with its iconic tiered roof visible to drivers passing on I-95, is valued at \$4.3 million in the city's property tax database. Adjoining properties owned by Gates and his affiliated companies, which would all likely be included in any sort of stadium proposal, total an additional combined value of more than \$1 million... " -Valley Breeze 3/21/17

Letter: Brown U. seeks \$15M from PawSox for stadium land - University suggests stadium negotiations are over without richer offer from team

Brown University's leaders want \$15 million from the new owners of the Pawtucket Red Sox in exchange for land the team needs to build its proposed riverfront stadium, according to a private letter obtained by WPRI.com... Brown spent \$6.1 million to buy 200 Dyer St. in March 2011 and has invested an additional \$7.5 million in the building there over the subsequent years, putting its total investment in the property at roughly \$13.6 million, according to Carey.

By Ted Nesi, WPRI.com Published: September 4, 2015, 1:08 pm, Updated: September 4, 2015, 8:00 pm

Just take the eyeball test – see what downtown Pawtucket looks like now and envision a new train station, as well as a new ballpark and envision the ancillary development. Common sense strongly argues for this business investment which is sorely needed for downtown Pawtucket and the Blackstone Valley.

As far as process, I respectfully suggest avoiding over-legislating details of a bond deal in law. Instead, I suggest that the General Assembly craft broad parameters in the enabling legislation, then delegate to the Commerce Corporation responsibility for finalizing remaining to be negotiated details in a tri-party Memorandum of Understanding among the City, State and PawSox. Issues such as Operations and Maintenance, environmental concerns, McCoy repurposing/demolition, etc. are too unwieldy to be finalized in an inflexible law that cannot possibly contemplate all the contingencies.

I urge your support of this vital public project and thank you for your time and patience.

Please keep the PawSox in Rhode Island!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James E. Thorsen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

James E. Thorsen