

To the Legislators:

I'm writing to you to express my opposition to SB 1132, regarding an admissions tax on tickets to the New Britain Rock Cats (soon-to-be Hartford Yard Goats) baseball games to be held in Hartford, starting in April of 2016; a tax designed to defray the city of Hartford's expense in paying the Stadium Authority for the lease of said stadium.

I have long been a vocal opponent of the city's expenditure of millions of dollars to build something as financially speculative as this minor league baseball stadium. It is a venture that--according to the city administration--will be an asset to the city, by creating jobs and luring visitors to Hartford. In truth, it will be nothing but a financial albatross around Hartford's neck--one that will burden our already strained budget for years to come.

The state has handed Hartford money by the truckload for a variety of ill-thought-out ventures, and they continue to come, hands out, seeking more. Please note that the city's plan for financing this stadium has changed at least five times in the past 10 months. Now they are seeking assistance from the state, because they've come to the realization that the project is not doable by any other means. Even if SB 1132 passes, it will prove to be money down the drain, as the true cost of the stadium is a yawning money pit that will never be filled. The residents of Hartford, by and large, want no part of this stadium and do not believe that it will deliver on the paper-thin promises that the city has touted.

To pass this bill would be a grave disservice to the citizens (and voters) of Hartford, who are suffering from budget cuts to essential services, troubled schools, poor infrastructure, blight, crime, homelessness, rampant dysfunction in several municipal departments, and much more. If the administration insists on having this new toy, then let them figure out how to pay for it on their own.

Please do not be the enablers of this folly.

Thank you,

Anne Goshdigian