

Testimony:

Dear Finance Committee members:

I would like to thank State Senator Tony Guglielmo for bringing this important issue to my attention. Thank you, Committee Members, for taking the time to consider my testimony.

Public financing of the Yard Goats definitely adds to my sincere concern for the spending and taxation gone wild in Connecticut. Spending hard earned taxpayer dollars on a gambling investment is not only mismanagement of state monies, it borders on corruption. This corruption has contributed to the downfall of a wonderful state.

It is also a violation of trust since we were publicly assured that the Yard Goat team would NOT be a recipient of any state funds; yet, now, before baseball season is in motion those reassurances have been reneged upon!

From a Northeastern Connecticut view, we are continually financing expensive ventures like the Yard Goats, corporate welfare, and bus systems that make no contribution to our way of life or economic futures in our own districts. It's another level of disrespect that is seldom addressed by residents. While many do not speak up, they do pack up!

Let's address gambling, another topic Connecticut lawmakers have a fetish for: Has any consideration been given to the fact that there are other baseball teams in our state that struggle with attendance? A Northeastern Connecticut resident who barely supports the beleaguered Tigers (Norwich) team won't be driving to Hartford to support this one. If citizens aren't excited about a team working hard to make it on their own, they certainly are not going to be excited about one that had to come begging to the taxpayer to get off the ground. This makes any expenditure on a Hartford team nothing more than a shameful gamble with others' money!

It is with a very heavy heart this testimonial is being written from the State of Georgia where we are purchasing a new home. I am not alone – I have lost many of my friends to competing states, but after two contentious election cycles we can see there is little chance of things turning around in Connecticut for any growth, especially in respect for personal wealth. While we are still residents and taxpayers in the state I felt the urgency to speak up about why we are leaving. This proposal perfectly addresses a bit of our most urgent concerns.

While we are leaving Connecticut with our pension incomes to the fourth most tax friendly state in the union (by Forbes) I ask that the lawmakers of Connecticut vote No on this bill and any others that will further attribute to the financial downfall of this great state, especially since our grown children are still here. They deserve your respect and continue to earn it by remaining here and contributing to the state's economy. If the General Assembly and Governor Malloy do not change course, they won't have to be enticed by us to vacate Connecticut – their lack of prosperity will be enough to send them our way!

Please vote NO on supporting the Yard Goat team and any other unwise expenditure you are being asked to consider.

Sincerely,
Rita Conrad
Pomfret Center

