

Mayor Erin E. Stewart

Testimony: Re: Senate Bill 452, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMISSIONS TAX ON
EVENTS AT DUNKIN' DONUTS PARK IN HARTFORD.

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

March 18, 2016

Dear Senator Fonfara and Ranking Member Senator Scott Frantz along with distinguished members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee,

I thank you for the opportunity to speak about Senate Bill 452. There is a reason this legislation peaked my interest. If this bill is allowed to move forward it continues to pile onto the inequity among stadium venues around the state.

Like the capitol city - we have a minor league baseball team which plays in our community - the New Britain Bees. They will play at New Britain stadium opening day April 21st. Our stadium was built in 1995 and paid for by the city of New Britain along with a state grant. The current upkeep of the stadium is paid for by the city.

Families are charged an admissions tax on tickets to get into the game. That money goes into the General Fund of the State of Connecticut.

It does *not* come back to New Britain. It does *not* help the city pay for the cost of building and maintaining our stadium. New Britain's baseball stadium is one of the only sporting venues left in Connecticut to be charged this ticket tax.

Last year, Sec. 11 Section 12-541 of the general statutes was amended to allow for the XL Center in Hartford, the Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport, and The Ballpark at Harbor Yard in Bridgeport to become exempt from the admissions tax.

It is unclear why certain venues are exempt from the tax yet others are required to collect it?

In New Britain, we like to offer a family friendly atmosphere where residents can enjoy quality entertainment without breaking the bank. If this bill is to move forward to benefit Hartford, I would ask that New Britain Stadium be exempt from the admissions tax it would bring parity to all sporting venues around the state.

I thank you for your consideration of this request and thank you for the opportunity to speak on this proposal.

Mayor Erin Stewart

