



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Executive Office of Commerce
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

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As we conduct our work in Commerce, we aim to achieve two objectives: to promote economic prosperity and to protect taxpayers. The proposal for a Ballpark at Slater Mill would accomplish both objectives. First, it's expected that this proposal will create hundreds of jobs due to construction and nearby redevelopment. The particular site under consideration – currently dormant and unproductive – has the potential to be reborn and to trigger the revitalization of the surrounding area. The proposal also protects the jobs that would be lost if the team were to leave Rhode Island.

Second, the proposal has been designed to safeguard the Rhode Island taxpayer. The City of Pawtucket and the PawSox organization, working with Commerce, have proposed a structure that's fair -- and even favorable -- to the state. Here's how: the state's expenditure will, in effect, be paid for by those who visit and use this complex. To explain further: in addition to retaining revenues currently collected from McCoy (taxes that would be lost should the team move out of Rhode Island), the state's share of costs will be covered by new revenue from state tax collections generated by ballpark-related sales and nearby development. Not every stadium deal is a good deal for taxpayers, but this one is.

We have also worked together to address the risk associated with unexpected ballpark costs. The PawSox have agreed to fund most of the ballpark costs. They have also agreed to pay for construction cost overruns, should they occur, meaning that the taxpayers are protected and their contribution is capped. Upon completion, the city would own the ballpark. In addition, this proposal would cost the state significantly less than renovating McCoy up to a reasonable standard.

It should be noted that the Rhode Island-affiliated ownership of the PawSox have taken an unusual step to demonstrate their commitment to Pawtucket and to our state. Owners with Rhode Island ties have pledged not to derive proceeds from this deal for the first five years. Instead, to their credit, these owners have pledged to donate their ballclub profits to charity via the PawSox Foundation, the Pawtucket Foundation, or the Rhode Island Foundation for these initial five years. That's a meaningful gesture of goodwill. The ownership, through the newly formed Prospect Development Group, has also committed to investing in additional commercial development (such as job- and tax-generating retail) adjacent to the site – kickstarting the revitalization effort.

This plan offers a responsible way to keep the "Paw" in the PawSox. It wasn't easy to arrive at this point. But our key questions have been answered. And we're fortunate that this refined version of the proposal is now before us. We hope that, once the General Assembly has the chance to review and consider this proposal, it advances and becomes a reality.

Secretary of Commerce
State of Rhode Island