



February 24, 2020

Honorable Anne Healy  
Chair and Members of the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee  
House Office Building  
6 Bladen Street  
Room 150  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HJ 7 – 2026 FIFA World Cup – Protection of Human Rights – In Support

Dear Chair and Members of the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the roughly 4,735 union members of the Washington – Mid Atlantic Local of SAG-AFTRA to urge you to support House Joint Resolution 7, “2026 FIFA World Cup – Protection of Human Rights” that is set for hearing before your Committee on February 24, 2020.

Baltimore and Washington, D.C. are amongst the finalists for United States host cities for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, which, if chosen, would bring games to M&T Bank Stadium and/or FedEx Field with practice and preparation facilities being slated for Towson University and/or University of Maryland College Park. In order to address many of the human rights and workers’ rights concerns the World Cup has faced in the past, FIFA has made a concerted effort to work with labor rights and human rights organizations to adopt the “Proposal for a United Human Rights Strategy” for the 2026 games. This strategy will focus on human and labor rights’ initiatives through the 2026 bidding process. If Baltimore and Washington, D.C. can show a commitment to value human rights in their proposal bid, then this area will receive a higher priority in the bidding process. If the area’s bid is successful, then based on previous World Cup games, host cities can expect between \$300 million to \$500 million in economic activity with the total potential economic impact for Marylanders near \$1 billion.

Passing the HJ 7 will reaffirm Maryland’s commitment to human and labor rights giving Baltimore and the District of Columbia an increased chance in becoming host cities for the 2026 World Cup and ensuring that workers, attendees, travelers, Maryland communities, and the local economy *all* benefit from the biggest sporting event in the world.

We encourage you to support HJ 7.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia M. O'Donnell" with a date "1/24/20" written at the end.

Patricia M. O'Donnell

PO: apr

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