



Building Unity through Integrity, Leadership, and Diversity

February 3, 2020

Re: HB 225 - Support with amendments

BUILD Prince George's purpose is to support diverse small, local, and minority business enterprises in identifying economic development and procurement opportunities in Prince George's County and the surrounding Washington, DC metropolitan region.

We are writing in support with amendments of HB 225 that would create a system to implement sports betting in the state of Maryland. We are asking that HB 225 be amended to include FedEx Field as one of the sites in Maryland that would be eligible for a sports betting license. Additionally, we're asking for an amendment that would create minority ownership opportunities in sporting betting licenses in Maryland as well as a mandate that all sports betting licenses granted in Prince George's County be required to utilize small, minority, and county-based companies in any construction of new facilities related to the sports betting license and also in the operation of a sports book and mobile app.

We believe that the Redskins should receive parity with casinos and horse racing facilities by being able to apply for a license to operate a sports betting lounge, as well as, an accompanying mobile license. Allowing the Redskins to have a sports betting license will level the playing field with sports venues in Washington DC, who have allowed their major sports facilities to have sports betting licenses (Capital One Arena, Nationals Park and Audi Field). Not having a license for the Redskins will likely result in some fans instead frequenting those facilities instead of FedEx Field.

This amendment is very important to Prince George's County and Maryland minority residents. We believe that a minority ownership requirement would allow ownership in the sports betting process that could potentially be worth tens of millions of dollars. Moreover, adding a provision that mandates the utilization of Prince George's County and Maryland based minority and small businesses in the sports betting operational process would ensure that D.C. and Virginia firms will not disproportionately benefit from those procurement opportunities and that Maryland businesses do not experience a competitive disadvantage.

Lastly, the Washington Redskins have called Prince George's County home for over 20 years and they have become a valued and trusted member of our community. Allowing the them to host a sports betting facility at FedEx Field will create an amenity for fans drawing more spectators to Prince George's County thus creating more opportunities for Prince George's County and Maryland minority and small businesses.



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We ask that you act favorably upon House Bill 225 with an amendment that would grant the Washington Redskins a sports betting license, and accompanying mobile license, at FedEx Field. We also ask that the amendment includes provisions calling for all sports betting licenses granted in Prince George's County be required to utilize small, minority, and county-based companies in any construction of new facilities related to the sports betting license and also in the operation of a sports book and mobile app.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eben Smith", is written over a horizontal line.

Eben Smith, Executive Director
BUILD Prince George's