

WEISS BROS.

FOCUSED ON YOU

March 3, 2021

Maryland Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

I am writing to ask for your approval for a multi-use outdoor facility located in downtown Hagerstown. Our area is in desperate need of urban renewal and revitalization and a project of this scope would provide just that. We recently lost the Hagerstown Suns which will have a large economic and emotional impact on our community. Hagerstown's first and second Minor League Baseball teams were recruited away by wealthier communities leaving Hagerstown twice with the burden of loss and the expense of renewal. There are 6 Minor League Baseball towns in Maryland, Hagerstown is the only one to experience a total loss due to Major League Baseball's contraction of Minor League Baseball. We need our team back and the benefits of having a new team and facility in our beautiful downtown.

As a native of Washington County and the owner of a business that has been located here since 1938 (weissbros.com), I believe in Washington County and the people here. However, we need a large project that would attract 400,000 people over the course of a year to our urban core. This draw would have a tremendous economic impact and create thousands of desperately needed jobs. The selected site is in an Opportunity Zone, sits next to the already present Cultural Trail, historic Maryland Theater, City Park and other foundational landmarks.

The State of Maryland has participated financially in the construction of every Minor League Baseball facility in the State. We have paid into the state lottery and would like to see some of those contributions used for our project.

Ownership is ready to go. The local community and businesses are ready to go. The plans are in place and we just need your support to revitalize our community.

I am asking for your support for this project in Downtown Hagerstown. We have been trying to get this project started for over 20 years. It is time to show some love to Hagerstown and help our community rise to the level it deserves.

Sincerely,



Michael Weiss

President

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