

March 5, 2021

The Honorable Senator Guy Guzzone  
Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
**Support SB 926**

Dear Chair Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

The Washington County Chamber of Commerce, representing 550 businesses and 40,000 employees, requests your **SUPPORT of SB 926, Economic Development – Maryland Stadium Authority – Hagerstown Multi-Use Sports and Events Facility**. The project benefits achieved by the creation of a multi-use outdoor facility in our Downtown Hagerstown community, supporting our Arts & Entertainment district, are many. Here are just a few:

- Provides a catalyst for urban renewal and revitalization with increased property valuations, adding to the local and state tax base.
- Creates job opportunities for disadvantaged populations in an area that lacks transportation.
- Leverages an Opportunity Zone in one of the most highly incentivized areas of our community.
- Supports small businesses in our downtown core by increasing foot traffic at the times where more people are needed on weeknight evenings and weekends, including Sundays.
- Spurs economic growth and job creation as a result of construction of a multi-million-dollar project and its operations, as well as the impact from the new development that typically follows.
- Increases investor confidence spurring enhanced private-sector development in our downtown core.
- Provides the opportunity to draw 2,000 – 5,000 fans on game nights to our downtown, and over 400,000 people over the course of a year (included 70 home games, concert series, and other events).
- Creates a community gathering place with family-oriented entertainment and activities year-round.

As you can see, the return on investment for this initiative benefits the City of Hagerstown and Washington County, including their respective citizens and residents, as well as adding greatly to the tax base for the State of Maryland.

On behalf the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, representing 550 businesses and 40,000 employees, I respectfully ask for a FAVORABLE report on **SB 926, Economic Development – Maryland Stadium Authority – Hagerstown Multi-Use Sports and Events Facility**. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Frey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Paul Frey, IOM  
President & CEO