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March 3, 2021

State of Maryland Senate
Economic Development – Maryland Stadium Authority
Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis MD 21401

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this letter as my support of Maryland Senate Bill SB-926 – Hagerstown Multi-Use Sports and Events Facility. I am a small business owner of 25 years in Hagerstown Maryland. Small businesses in our downtown core desperately need your support.

It is my firm belief that the creation of a multi-use outdoor facility for the community in the downtown supporting our Arts & Entertainment district would create a community gathering place with family-oriented entertainment and activities year-round. This facility would provide a catalyst for urban renewal and revitalization with increased property valuations adding to the local and state tax base while also increasing investor confidence spurring enhanced private-sector development in our downtown core.

The State of Maryland has participated financially in the construction of every Minor League Baseball facility in the State. None of these facilities have a Capital Expenditure Fund to maintain them in the future. In Hagerstown, we are learning from this predicament and are seeking to have the facility paid for up front and to devote stadium revenues to the long term care and upgrading of the facility through the Capital Expenditure Fund instead of returning to the State for more financial help.

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. No Maryland town should have suffered this loss.

I thank you very much for your consideration,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott D. Ford', written over a horizontal line.

Scott D. Ford, RFC
Managing Director, Partner & Wealth Advisor

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