

March 5, 2021

The Honorable Guy J. Guzzone
Chairman, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Miller Senate Office Building, 3 West Wing
11 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Ref; Senate Bill 926 Economic Development – Maryland Stadium Authority
– Hagerstown Multi–Use 2
Sports and Events Facility

Dear Senator Guzzone,

As a local winery in Funkstown, a neighboring town to Hagerstown, I would like to show my support for SB 926. Tourism in Hagerstown and Washington County MD took a hard blow not only from the pandemic but also a total loss from the contraction of the Minor League Hagerstown Suns by Major League Baseball industry. Five other MD communities are keeping their teams and the travel and tourism that they instigate.

Senators Corderman and Edwards have developed a smart strategy to buffer Hagerstown and Washington County from these losses.

SB 926 will restore the commerce lost with the contraction of our team and provide a valuable post pandemic capital project to help jump start our economy. This will provide much needed part time jobs and attract new development and redevelopment to build the tax base so new revenues can be available for other community needs like police, EMS and other needs. The area businesses and our winery will benefit greatly from the tourism that we so need to stay in business in Maryland.

Hagerstown introduced Maryland to Minor League Baseball in 1981, since then five other communities have joined in.

All five of these teams play in modern venues built with the help and support of the State of Maryland.

It is only Maryland's original Minor League City that plays in an outdated venue unsuited for professional play.

SB 926 will restore our tourism commerce, provide a post pandemic capital project to jump start our economy, and provide a rally point to revitalize our struggling City core. Please support the passing of SB 926.

Sincerely,

Cynthia McGee-Rowe
Blue Mountain Wine Crafters LLC