

# WEISS BROS.

FOCUSED ON YOU

March 4, 2021

Maryland Senate Budget and Taxation Committee:

I am writing to you in support of Senator Cordesman's bill to provide the funding for a multiuse sports and events center in downtown Hagerstown by using the State's lottery revenue. I am also advocating that the Maryland Stadium Authority take a lead role in the construction and bonding of the project. This project would create a multi-use outdoor facility for the community in the downtown area supporting our Arts & Entertainment District and create a community gathering place with family-oriented entertainment and activities year-round. It would be located adjacent to the Cultural Trail in downtown Hagerstown and provide the final piece in the Urban Development Project that our City has been working on for the past several years.

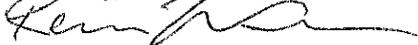
This project will provide a catalyst for urban renewal and revitalization with increased property valuations adding to the local and state tax base and increases investor confidence spurring enhanced private-sector development in our downtown core. The site location lies within an Opportunity Zone as well as the most highly incentivized area of our community. It will support small businesses in our downtown core by increasing foot traffic at the times where more people are needed - weeknights, evenings, Sundays and weekends.

As Hagerstown struggles to get ahead of urban decay, this downtown multiuse arena will inspire investor confidence in the City's core. It will also inspire home buyer confidence bringing young and upwardly mobile people back into the City. Hagerstown was Maryland's first town to see the value in Minor League Baseball and pioneered that industry into our State. Unfortunately due to baseball's decision to lower the number of minor league affiliations, Hagerstown has lost the Suns and will be without professional baseball for the first time in 40 years.

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.

As a lifelong resident of Hagerstown and Washington County and as a local businessman for the past 50 years, I feel that support for this project should be one of the top priorities for the City of Hagerstown, Washington County and The State of Maryland. Please support the funding of this project. I believe it will be money well spend and provide a catalyst for the future growth and prosperity of our area.

Sincerely,



Richard Weiss

Chairman of the Board

301-739-3069

rweiss@weissbros.com



OFFICE  
301.739.3069

TOLL FREE  
800.878.9347

FAX  
301.739.3157