

Visit HAGERSTOWN & Washington County, Maryland

February 28, 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*

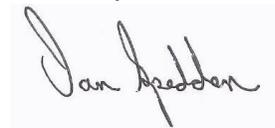
Dear Senator Guzzone,

Two circumstances beyond our control have combined to deliver a very hard blow to the tourism industry in Hagerstown and Washington County MD. The loss of business due to the pandemic and the contraction of the Minor League Hagerstown Suns by Major League Baseball are devastating to our tourism enterprises. Although the pandemic strikes at every MD community only Hagerstown is suffering a total loss from the contraction of Minor League Baseball. 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.

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 It is only Maryland's original Minor League City that plays in an outdated venue unsuited for professional play.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



Dan Spedden, President