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Office of the President

**Hagerstown Community College
Senate Bill 926 – Hagerstown Multi-Use Sports and Events Facility**

**Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
3/9/21**

**Testimony Submitted by
Dr. James Klauber**

Members of the Senate Budget and Tax Committee, thank you for accepting my testimony on Senate Bill 926. Hagerstown Community College is in support of this legislation.

For many years, the College has fielded its baseball team at the main campus. This location is woefully inefficient. Stands and access to them are not ADA compliant. The field is in poor condition, and there is little to no parking for attendees. Few other than the most devoted parents and friends come to see the HCC Hawks play ball.

A Multi-Use facility in Hagerstown would allow the College to collaborate with others and move its games to downtown Hagerstown. There, we would have a much greater exposure to the community, which will drive greater attendance and awareness to our athletic programs. We believe that it will greatly aid recruiting students into the College, and boost the overall perception of the program.

Having the opportunity to share stadium space will not only help our program, but conserve valuable resources of the College. It is only a matter of time before the issues of our present baseball field have to be addressed at the College. This would consume resources that could better be used for student programming. Your affirmative support of this legislation will allow us to use the current field for practice, but move all of our games downtown.

The construction of this facility brings more benefits to HCC than just athletics. Our mere presence downtown will give greater exposure about the College to those who live in the inner core of Hagerstown. During these events we can better access a population that is traditionally difficult to reach. We can expose them to the benefits of additional education and training that will lead to high wage/high growth careers or affordable university transfer options.

There are countless positive reasons to build this facility. I am certain you will get many letters that detail those positive aspects. This project will greatly benefit our College and I hope it earns your support.

Yours truly,

A blue ink signature of Dr. James Klauber, which appears to read "J. Klauber".

Dr. James Klauber
President