

**SB0926 testimony letter.pdf**

Uploaded by: Clutz, Mary Katherine

Position: FAV

To whom it may concern,

As a local community member, I wanted to share my support of SB926 in creation of a multi-use sports and events facility in downtown Hagerstown. Funding of this project will attract family friendly activities to our downtown which would provide a much-needed boost. As a mother of 2 young boys, they would love a place to watch their local sports team compete. But this is only just one reason to support this initiative. I truly believe that this project will be the catalyst to support our downtown revitalization project. It will add more foot traffic and support our local businesses. It will have a tremendous impact on the vacant housing and commercial spaces. It will create jobs and boost tourism. Please take this letter as my full support of this local initiative. I have never written a letter in support of anything like this before, so please consider this a sincere testimony on how much my community of family and friends and I would be in favor of this multi-use stadium.

Regards,

Katie Clutz

Hagerstown Native

**SB 926 LOS Amy Mason 03 04 21.pdf**

Uploaded by: Committee, Greater Hagerstown

Position: FAV

Mrs. Amy Mason  
19753 Meadowbrook Road  
Hagerstown MD 21742  
301-393-0794  
Amy.mason@myactv.net

Mr. Paul D. Corderman  
5 Public Square, Suite 210  
Hagerstown MD 21740

March 4, 2021


Dear Mr. Corderman:

We are writing to express our support for the Hagerstown, MD Baseball and Multiuse Facility project. The downtown area has our lovely new library, newly refurbished (jewel in the crown) Maryland theatre, local University of Maryland Systems campus, Discovery Station, and the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts. (to name just a few)

Hagerstown is uniquely positioned in the four-state region to have this opportunity to be able to build this project. I see many avenues to help all members of our community and surrounding areas with sports, live music entertainment, traveling school and college tournaments. And in turn hotels and restaurants would have more people visiting and taking part in all our amenities.

Again, we hope that Hagerstown will get the support of all the legislators to fund building the stadium and helping Hagerstown, Maryland be the state capital of Western, MD for Arts and Entertainment!

Sincerely,  
Amy Mason

DocuSigned by:  
  
695396D6DB3A42A...  
Amy Mason

**SB 926 LOS Berkshire Hathaway - Taylor Bowen 03 04**

Uploaded by: Committee, Greater Hagerstown

Position: FAV

March 4, 2021

Hon. Paul D. Corderman  
5 Public Square, Suite 210  
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Senator Corderman,

I am a lifelong resident of Washington County and the Hagerstown, Maryland area. The purpose of this letter is to express my empathic support for the proposed Multi-Use Facility in Hagerstown. Rarely do you get an opportunity to make a single choice that will forever reshape the landscape of a community. This is one such moment. The addition of a facility like this would give an urban core that has struggled to revitalize for decades the final critical push. Not only would it create new jobs that would support the people who reside in the area and lack suitable transportation, but it would also increase foot traffic and spur likely tens of millions or more in new development dollars. We are riding the tail end of a positive wave of redevelopment of some key assets in our Arts & Entertainment District, such as the expansions of both the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts and the Maryland Theatre as well as the Cultural Trail that connects our City Center to the proposed location for this facility. But we cannot let those efforts be the end. We absolutely need this to happen to finally turn this corner.

I recognize that such an endeavor requires substantial capital and that there are many needs at this time. But once in a while, you have no choice but to seize an opportunity when it presents itself. If we miss this chance, we will lose our opportunity to add a new minor league team in a powerful modern league. At a time when baseball has been contracting and costing communities millions of potential dollars in revenue, we have a chance to expand. We are the only Maryland city to lose our minor league baseball asset. We cannot let that stand. The additional investment and tax revenue generated by this would be substantial and I feel is well worth any proposed risk.

Respectfully, I implore the legislature to vote in favor of the Hagerstown Multi-Use Sports and Entertainment Facility. Please do not let this one in a lifetime opportunity pass us by!

Sincerely,



Taylor Bowen  
Broker/Owner  
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Bowen Realty

**SB 926 LOS Carson Wealth - Scott Ford 03 03 2021.p**

Uploaded by: Committee, Greater Hagerstown

Position: FAV



Carson Wealth  
19833 Leitersburg Pike  
Suite 1  
Hagerstown, MD 21742

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

LOCAL 301.739.8505

TOLL-FREE 866.485.8505

FAX 301.739.8513

carsonwealth.com



**SB 926 LOS HCC - Jim Klauber 03 04 2021.pdf**

Uploaded by: Committee, Greater Hagerstown

Position: FAV



11400 Robinwood Drive • Hagerstown, Maryland 21742-6590 • 240-500-2000

*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,



Dr. James Klauber  
President

**SB 926 LOS MEC Inc - Mike Radaker 03 02 2021.pdf**

Uploaded by: Committee, Greater Hagerstown

Position: FAV



March 2, 2021

***Senate Bill 926, (MD Stadium Authority-Hagerstown Multi-Use Sports & Events Facility)***

*Where to begin.....The help that this would create for Hagerstown and all of Washington County would be a fresh breath of air for all ages! Hagerstown has watched and visited several adjacent towns benefit from state funded projects prosper over the years and solicited them as well. As a lot of Washington County residents say, "It's our turn to receive a little help".*

*I was born and raised in a very small town in western Pennsylvania (Dubois, Pa.) that had an -8.1% drop in population from 2000 to 2010. Over the years the population was depleted due to the economic conditions and the lack of opportunities. Since that time they had some visions that Washington County has. They built several facilities with turf playing surfaces to allow for the population to stabilize and increase the value of working and living there.*

*Hagerstown is in desperate need of this help for the Multi-Use Sports and Events Facility to provide the following:*

- *Support many small businesses!*
- *Urban revitalization!*
- *Create a vibe for local investors to provide opportunities surrounding this facility!*
- *Economic impact to the City of Hagerstown!*
- *Tourism and Hospitality!*
- *Job creation!*
- *Adding local and state tax base!*
- *And many more positive reasons but most importantly, for our community gatherings that are families oriented!*

*With your help in this matter, all of us that work, live and play in Washington County can bring this facility full circle as the saying goes, "You build it and they will come". I was excited to see what transpired with my home town after they built Showers Field and what it has provided for the town. With their new facility they now host several events yearly that provide positive revenue that was much needed*

MEC, Inc.  
March 2, 2021

*as this is for Hagerstown. I hope that we can count on your support for all the residents of Washington County and the City of Hagerstown to support our vision with your avenues to assist us in making our community/town a better place to work, live and play!*

**Thank you,**

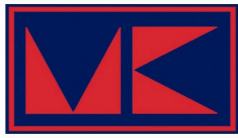
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Radaker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Michael Radaker  
President, MEC, Inc.**

**SB 926 LOS Morgan Keller - Taylor Davis 03 05 21.p**

Uploaded by: Committee, Greater Hagerstown

Position: FAV



# MORGAN-KELLER CONSTRUCTION

GENERAL CONTRACTORS • DESIGN BUILD • CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

70 Thomas Johnson Drive, Suite 200  
Frederick, MD 21702  
Ph: 301-663-0626; Fax: 301-695-0426

March 5, 2021

Attn: Michael Weiss  
Weiss Brothers  
18038 Oak Ridge Drive  
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Re: Support for Multi-Use Facility in Hagerstown, MD

Dear Mr. Weiss:

Please let this letter serve as Morgan-Keller's support for Senate Bill SB-926 for a multi-use facility in Hagerstown, MD. As a firm that has completed many projects in Hagerstown, MD, we support initiatives which would help this community flourish.

A multi-use facility in downtown Hagerstown would provide many benefits to the Hagerstown community including being a catalyst for urban renewal and revitalization, increasing investor confidence to spur enhanced private sector development in the downtown core, and providing job opportunities for disadvantaged populations in the area that lack transportation.

This project would be the largest post pandemic economic recovery tourism infrastructure project west of Baltimore and we would love to see it happen in Hagerstown. Please let me know if we can provide any assistance to help bring this project to fruition.

MORGAN-KELLER CONSTRUCTION

Taylor Davis  
Vice President and General Manager

**SB 926 LOS MVB - BJ Goetz 03 04 21.pdf**

Uploaded by: Committee, Greater Hagerstown

Position: FAV





24 W. Main St. PO Box 75 Middletown, MD 21769 | 1.844.533.9211 | www.mvbbank.com

March 4, 2021

Senators Corderman and Edwards,  
Budget and Taxation Committee of the Maryland Senate  
Annapolis, MD

RE: Senate Bill 926

Dear Senators Corderman, Edwards, and the Budget and Taxation Committee,

Middletown Valley Bank is writing to provide its support for Senate Bill 926, for a Multi-Use Sports and Entertainment Facility to be located in Hagerstown, MD. This multi-use outdoor facility will continue to provide strong economic support and opportunity within the core of the City of Hagerstown, which serves as the County Seat for Washington County. The creates an entertainment, tourism, community activities center that will be geared towards year-round family-oriented events, that will further promote downtown Hagerstown.

This type of project will spur economic activity, further increase property values, providing stronger private investment within the area and the move forward of many locally owned, urban based small businesses in an area of the community that continues to seek opportunities for further enhancements and expansion. From the construction to the small businesses that can locate in these urban and disadvantaged areas of the community, will provide much needed private investment opportunity and job creations for small businesses, by having a significant increase in foot traffic to our downtown area.

Historically the State of Maryland has provided strong financial support for these types of venues and investments, which has provided much needed support from the state to local jurisdictions. The increase in Hospitality and Tourism is crucial to the Washington County community and the continued advancement of Downtown Hagerstown, being the next step in our Cultural, Arts, and Entertainment based future.

With the anticipated private investment, small businesses to follow and an increase in property values, the public sector should see a stronger tax base and tax revenue generation. Thus, further providing financial stability to the economic conditions in Hagerstown and Washington County.

Middletown Valley Bank is one of the largest private employers in the Downtown Hagerstown corridor. Daily, even during the Pandemic, nearly 100 employees from our company is in the downtown area every day. This type of venue would mean that these employees will have entertainment opportunities in the evenings and weekends, providing a much need social atmosphere for them to continue to be in the downtown area, beyond the workday.

For all of these reasons, I urge the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee to move Senate Bill 926 for the Citizens of Washington County and all of Western Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert E. Goetz, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert E. Goetz, Jr.  
President and CEO  
Middletown Valley Bank

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James G. Pierne" in a cursive style.

James G. Pierne  
Chairman of the Board of Directors  
Middletown Valley Bank



**SB 926 LOS Toothman Ortho - Jeff Toothman 03 04 20**

Uploaded by: Committee, Greater Hagerstown

Position: FAV



**TOOTHMAN**  
orthodontics

To: Maryland State Senate Budget and Tax Committee

I am writing in support of senate bill 926. Being born and raised in Washington county and later returning to take over my family business has offered me a wide-ranging perspective as to why this is so important to our Western MD community.

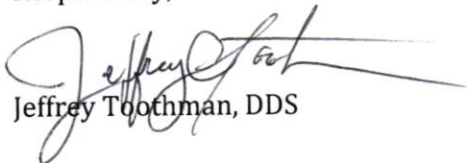
I grew up watching Sun's games during the summer and playing junior-league football in the outfield of Sun's stadium in the fall. A multi-use venue in Hagerstown would offer future generations that same opportunity (and much more). This is invaluable in any community and especially true in a community like ours that has few other safe and constructive outlets for younger people.

On moving back to Washington county as an adult I have gained a greater appreciation for how important it is to foster the revitalization of our historic but often underserved community. This is especially true regarding our town centers. Since I moved home 10 years ago I have observed incredible additions to downtown Hagerstown, including restaurants, schools, a new library, a "cultural" walking trail, and the MD theater. While each of these features bring people downtown, none offer the true anchor to bring the critical mass that a multi-use venue would.

As a small business owner I recognize the importance that the trickle-down effect of a multi-use venue would offer our community. From sponsorship opportunities within the venue to increased disposable income surrounding it, there is a genuine opportunity for compounded organic community growth. This includes business opportunities as well as residential development, something that is currently sorely lacking in our downtown.

I truly believe that a multi-use venue would be a game-changer for Hagerstown and Washington county and would reinstate us as a hub of Western Maryland. My business would certainly promote it and, more importantly, my children (and someday their children) would certainly greatly benefit from it. Please consider these comments as you support this bill.

Respectfully,

  
Jeffrey Toothman, DDS

**Hagerstown** 81 North Edgewood Drive, Hagerstown MD 21740 301.791.1770

**Frederick** 5100 Buckeystown Pike, Suite 196, Frederick MD 21704 301.662.3366

[toothmanorthodontics.com](http://toothmanorthodontics.com)

**SB 926 LOS Weiss Bros - Michael Weiss 03 03 2021.p**

Uploaded by: Committee, Greater Hagerstown

Position: FAV

# WEISS BROS.

FOCUSED ON YOU

March 3, 2021

Maryland Senate Budget and Taxation Committee,

I am writing to ask for your approval for a multi-use outdoor facility located in downtown Hagerstown. Our area is in desperate need of urban renewal and revitalization and a project of this scope would provide just that. We recently lost the Hagerstown Suns which will have a large economic and emotional impact on our community. Hagerstown's first and second Minor League Baseball teams were recruited away by wealthier communities leaving Hagerstown twice with the burden of loss and the expense of renewal. 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. We need our team back and the benefits of having a new team and facility in our beautiful downtown.

As a native of Washington County and the owner of a business that has been located here since 1938 (weissbros.com), I believe in Washington County and the people here. However, we need a large project that would attract 400,000 people over the course of a year to our urban core. This draw would have a tremendous economic impact and create thousands of desperately needed jobs. The selected site is in an Opportunity Zone, sits next to the already present Cultural Trail, historic Maryland Theater, City Park and other foundational landmarks.

The State of Maryland has participated financially in the construction of every Minor League Baseball facility in the State. We have paid into the state lottery and would like to see some of those contributions used for our project.

Ownership is ready to go. The local community and businesses are ready to go. The plans are in place and we just need your support to revitalize our community.

I am asking for your support for this project in Downtown Hagerstown. We have been trying to get this project started for over 20 years. It is time to show some love to Hagerstown and help our community rise to the level it deserves.

Sincerely,



Michael Weiss

President

301-992-9207

mweiss@weissbros.com



OFFICE  
301.739.3069  
TOLL FREE  
800.878.9347  
FAX  
301.739.3157

**SB 926 LOS Weiss Bros - Richard Weiss 03 04 2021.p**

Uploaded by: Committee, Greater Hagerstown

Position: FAV

# 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

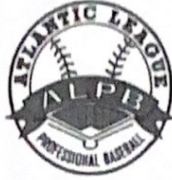
WEISSBROS.COM  
18038 OAK RIDGE DR. HAGERSTOWN, MD 21740

# **Atlantic League Letter.pdf**

Uploaded by: Corderman, Paul

Position: FAV





## ATLANTIC LEAGUE OF PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL CLUBS

January 14, 2021

Mr. Howard B. Bowen  
9651 Old National Pike  
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Re: Conditional Approval to Award Atlantic League Membership to Hagerstown, Maryland

Dear Mr. Bowen:

This correspondence shall confirm conditional approval to award a team Membership to Hagerstown, Maryland, by the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball (ALPB), subject to the following conditions:

1. Creation of a formal Membership ownership entity, subject to the approval of the Atlantic League Board of Directors (the Board);
2. Ratification of locating the ALPB Membership to Hagerstown by the Board;
3. Full funding and establishment of a ballpark in the greater Hagerstown area which meets or exceeds Atlantic League Facility Standards;
4. An acceptable lease agreement in said ballpark granting primary tenancy to the ALPB Member club, subject to the approval of the agreement by the Board;
5. Provision to the Atlantic League of reasonable evidence of community business and fan support for the ALPB Membership. This evidence should include contracts and/or letters of reservation and support for the purchase of ballpark naming rights, sponsorships, advertising, and season tickets.

We commend you and other community leaders on your efforts to date and look forward to formal consideration of Hagerstown, Maryland, as an Atlantic League community in the near future.

Kind regards,

Rick White  
President

cc. Senator Paul Corderman  
Frank Boulton

# Commerce Letter.pdf

Uploaded by: Corderman, Paul

Position: FAV



Larry Hogan | Governor  
Boyd Rutherford | Lt. Governor  
Kelly M. Schulz | Secretary of Commerce

January 14, 2021

Mayor Emily Keller (email: [ekeller@hagerstownmd.org](mailto:ekeller@hagerstownmd.org))  
City of Hagerstown, City Hall  
1 East Franklin Street  
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Re: Letter of Support for High-Level Baseball in Hagerstown

Dear Mayor Keller,

I do not believe that I have had the opportunity of congratulating you on your recent election victory. Your position as the Mayor of Hagerstown has never been more significant as we witness the many changes happening in our world around us. I would like to offer myself as a resource should you have any questions throughout your term. Economic development, and our economy in general, has never been as critical of a topic as it is today.

One of the Commissions that we oversee at the Department of Commerce is the Maryland Economic Development Commission. Commission member Howard "Blackie" Bowen is a conscientious and productive member of the Commission whom I have had the opportunity to get to know over the years and believe his commitment to the community is more than genuine. Recently, he contacted me regarding a worthwhile initiative.

There is no question that high-level baseball creates excitement, provides entertainment, and adds to the quality of life in a community. There have been numerous articles citing its positive impact, along with the need for family-friendly opportunities.

The Department of Commerce is also aware of the positive synergy which the balanced blend of arts, recreation, sports, retail, and dining have on a community. There have been numerous studies which support plans for venues which would attract visitors, and the resulting positive economic impact. High-level baseball, played in Hagerstown, would generate significant economic benefits.



Larry Hogan | Governor  
Boyd Rutherford | Lt. Governor  
Kelly M. Schulz | Secretary of Commerce

Recent estimates indicate that a high-level baseball team in Hagerstown would create millions of dollars of new spending. Minor league baseball, in recent years, had an annual economic impact in Washington County of between 3 and 5 million dollars. A thriving baseball organization is good business for a community.

Additionally, baseball is woven into Hagerstown's history. Organized baseball has been played in Hagerstown since the 1880's. Hagerstown has the historic distinction of having the first minor league affiliate in Maryland. Built in 1930, Hagerstown's current stadium is one of the oldest in professional baseball. Also, the first time that the word "baseball" was printed in an American newspaper, was in the Hagerstown Torch and Light, in 1828!

The Department of Commerce is fully supportive of a high-level baseball team in Hagerstown. There would be economic and enhanced quality of life benefits. I look forward to the opportunity to once again see high-level baseball played in Hagerstown.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelly M. Schulz".

Kelly M. Schulz  
Secretary, Maryland Department of Commerce

**MSA Letter (002).pdf**

Uploaded by: Corderman, Paul

Position: FAV



Larry Hogan  
Governor

Michael J. Frenz  
Executive Director

Members

Thomas E. Kelso  
Chairman

Leonard J. Attman  
Joseph C. Bryce  
Gary L. Mangum  
Carolyn Mozell  
Manervia W. Riddick  
Jodi C. Stanalonis

January 13, 2021

Mayor and City Council of Hagerstown  
Mayor Emily Keller  
1 East Franklin Street  
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

Dear Mayor Keller and Council Members:

As you are aware, the Maryland Stadium Authority is currently conducting a study related to a possible baseball stadium for the City of Hagerstown. In December, I was contacted by Blackie Bowen inquiring about additional ways that the Authority might be helpful in this regard.

I have known Mr. Bowen for many decades going back more than 25 years. In addition to being friends, Blackie and I have worked together on various matters which include the support of a vital industry trade group (MAPDA), we both served on the board of the Maryland Public Policy Institute (he recruited me to the board), and the Governor's 2014 and 2018 campaigns.

Mr. Bowen is a person committed to his community, the civic organizations within that community and to the State of Maryland. His reaching out to me about how the Authority assists state agencies, counties and municipalities with development and construction projects was an important step in helping organizers understand the resources available. These resources include economic impact and feasibility studies, project design, construction management and, in certain circumstances, potential financing.

The Authority looks forward to working with you and others in the community to help you make critical decisions and, hopefully, bring this project to a successful conclusion.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Kelso  
Chairman

CC: Blackie Bowen

Maryland Stadium Authority  
The Warehouse at Camden Yards  
333 W. Camden Street, Suite 500  
Baltimore, MD 21201  
410-333-1560  
1-877-MDSTADIUM  
Fax: 410-333-1888

[www.mdstad.com](http://www.mdstad.com)

Voice: 800-201-7165  
TTY: 800-735-2258

**UPDATED Testimony SB926.pdf**

Uploaded by: Corderman, Paul

Position: FAV

PAUL D. CORDERMAN  
*Legislative District 2*  
Washington County

Budget and Taxation Committee

*Subcommittees*

Education, Business and Administration

Pensions



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 416  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3903 • 301-858-3903  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3903  
Paul.Corderman@senate.state.md.us

*District Office*  
5 Public Square, Suite 210  
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740  
240-313-3929

March 9, 2021

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 926 Economic Development – Maryland Stadium Authority – Hagerstown Multi-Use Sports and Events Facility**

Chairman Guzzone & Members of the Budget & Tax Committee;

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 926 to you this afternoon.

This bill will add the Hagerstown Multi-Use Sports and Events Facility as an identified project for the Maryland Stadium Authority. This facility will provide significant economic impact and revitalization in an area where it is desperately needed, and such development will be the catalyst for a variety of growth opportunities that would otherwise not exist. The project is entering a third phase of design and engineering, making it shovel ready. It is important to note that this project would be the largest post pandemic economic recovery tourism infrastructure project in Western Maryland.

The Maryland Stadium Authority has been involved in this project since 2018 - completing the Phase I Market & Feasibility Report and Phase II Facility Pre-Design Phase. The General Assembly has been supportive of this project over the last three years. The addition of this project to the Maryland Stadium Authority's portfolio would solidify the potential of upwards of \$100 million dollars of additional investment in an impoverished area of our community.

This facility will serve as the anchor project to include multiple housing redevelopment opportunities, additional city infrastructure, neighborhood revitalization, and job opportunities.

Thank you for your consideration. I respectfully ask for a favorable report on SB 926.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul D. Corderman".

Paul D. Corderman  
District 2 – Washington County

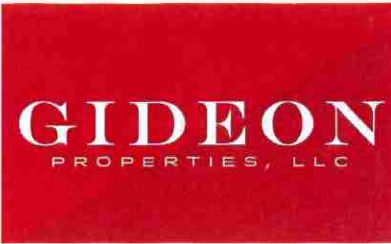




# Senate Bill 926\_Written Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Fitzgerald, Michael

Position: FAV



20 W. Washington St, Suite 500  
Hagerstown, MD 2140  
Tel: (301)-960-4881 Fax: (301)-789-2887

Re: Budget & Taxation Committee  
3 West Wing, 11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair, Guzzone,

I write to you today in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 926, as the proposed development compliments my perception of downtown Hagerstown's growth in Economic Development. There is endless opportunity at hand, that will venture into awe inspiring recreational/employment/historic evolution, attracting and drawing in the attention from which surrounds. Most recently, I have committed in raising \$11 million as an investment into the Holly Project. This project will be forty-six high-end residential apartments to assist in the growth of Economic Development in the City of Hagerstown. This is to reflect what is already a desirable experience and in high demand when speaking in terms of luxury living, focusing on the tenant demographic of accomplished retirees/seniors, and young professionals enhancing just what downtown Hagerstown needs. I feel by adding the product, it will bring the people here and the glass ceiling on rent will be broken. The investment I have made in the Holly Project supports Senate Bill 926, Hagerstown Multi-Use Sports and Events Facility, and will benefit substantially by creating an infrastructure luring developers to the area to capitalize on this opportunity. Consumer spending, for example, households led by our targeted demographic spend \$50,220 annually, with 46 total units, the outcome of annual spending on average is just over \$2.3 million. My support in Senate Bill 926 stems from having the City of Hagerstown's best interest at hand, there are many opportunities to Economically Develop downtown Hagerstown and the Sports and Events Facility is what will bring out the potential we all know already exists, benefiting all parties every step of the way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael T. Fitzgerald", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael T. Fitzgerald  
Developer, CEO Gideon Properties, LLC

# **SB 926 Support Wash. Co. Chamber of Commerce.pdf**

Uploaded by: Frey, Paul

Position: FAV

March 5, 2021

The Honorable Senator Guy Guzzone  
Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
**Support SB 926**

Dear Chair Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

The Washington County Chamber of Commerce, representing 550 businesses and 40,000 employees, requests your **SUPPORT of SB 926, Economic Development – Maryland Stadium Authority – Hagerstown Multi-Use Sports and Events Facility**. The project benefits achieved by the creation of a multi-use outdoor facility in our Downtown Hagerstown community, supporting our Arts & Entertainment district, are many. Here are just a few:

- Provides a catalyst for urban renewal and revitalization with increased property valuations, adding to the local and state tax base.
- Creates job opportunities for disadvantaged populations in an area that lacks transportation.
- Leverages an Opportunity Zone in one of the most highly incentivized areas of our community.
- Supports small businesses in our downtown core by increasing foot traffic at the times where more people are needed on weeknight evenings and weekends, including Sundays.
- Spurs economic growth and job creation as a result of construction of a multi-million-dollar project and its operations, as well as the impact from the new development that typically follows.
- Increases investor confidence spurring enhanced private-sector development in our downtown core.
- Provides the opportunity to draw 2,000 – 5,000 fans on game nights to our downtown, and over 400,000 people over the course of a year (included 70 home games, concert series, and other events).
- Creates a community gathering place with family-oriented entertainment and activities year-round.

As you can see, the return on investment for this initiative benefits the City of Hagerstown and Washington County, including their respective citizens and residents, as well as adding greatly to the tax base for the State of Maryland.

On behalf the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, representing 550 businesses and 40,000 employees, I respectfully ask for a FAVORABLE report on **SB 926, Economic Development – Maryland Stadium Authority – Hagerstown Multi-Use Sports and Events Facility**. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Frey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Paul Frey, IOM  
President & CEO

**SB926 LOS Beachley Furniture - Frankie Corsi 03 04**

Uploaded by: Hoover-Miller, Dawn

Position: FAV



March 4, 2021

Maryland Senate Budget and Taxation Committee:

I am asking for your support for a multi-use sports and events center in downtown Hagerstown. While the idea of a stadium has consistently been a topic of debate for many years in the community, it has never had the support of the business and investment community as it does today. Led by respected businessman Blackie Bowen, the project has the oversight of an investment-minded group that combines a vision for a revitalized urban core with the fiscal responsibility necessary to ensure its success for decades to come.

My partners and I began investing in downtown Hagerstown in 2004, specifically buying "distressed" assets (companies and real estate) which we breathe life into with fresh capital and energy. Those energies have resulted in owning 9 companies and over 300,000 SF of real estate, all within the City. Last year, Beachley, a furniture and millworking manufacturer, moved into 100,000 SF factory in Hagerstown in a renovated industrial building. I continue to invest here because I see opportunities and it is working. There are many others who are doing the same at an equal or greater scale. However, we need a project that links those individual efforts and those of the City of Hagerstown together. The integration of the facility into the Cultural Trail connecting the City Park the Arts & Entertainment District would be an impressive public-private partnership between the City, the State and private investors that could become a model for revitalizing struggling communities. The support is here and so is the demand.

During my factory build out, I was contacted by a youth volleyball group to see if I had space available. At the completion of the project, we had a gym with three volleyball courts in 15,000 SF of space. The group pays a fair rent and the space is full on nights and weekends when our manufacturing operations are not running. It has turned out to be a perfect partnership. There are many more opportunities such as this available in our City. To be able to capture these opportunities in a multi-use arena would give our City – the housing, restaurants, the shops, etc. - an economic boost that will only attract more attention and more investment.

I am asking for your support in this Downtown Hagerstown project. We have momentum that even a pandemic has not curtailed. Why not make this long-debated project a model for the State in support of its small, historically-rich communities? To have baseball be the foundational activity that pulls it together only seems even more appropriate.

Sincerely,

Frankie Corsi III  
President  
frankiec@beachley.com

858 Willow Circle  
Hagerstown, MD 21740  
(P) – 301-733-1910  
[www.beachley.com](http://www.beachley.com)



**SB926 LOS Beachley Furniture - Frankie Corsi 03 04**

Uploaded by: Hoover-Miller, Dawn

Position: FAV



March 4, 2021

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Sincerely,

Frankie Corsi III  
President  
frankiec@beachley.com

858 Willow Circle  
Hagerstown, MD 21740  
(P) – 301-733-1910  
[www.beachley.com](http://www.beachley.com)

**SB-926 Meritus - Maulik Joshi 03 02 21.pdf**

Uploaded by: Hoover-Miller, Dawn

Position: FAV



**Meritus Health**  
11116 Medical Campus Rd  
Hagerstown, MD 21742  
301.790.8000

March 2, 2021

Senator Paul D. Corderman  
Budget & Taxation Committee  
416 James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: SB-926 – Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA)**

Dear Senator Corderman:

On behalf of Meritus Health, Inc. I would like offer my full support for the SB-926 Maryland Stadium Authority.

This project would provide a multi-use facility that would be a tremendous asset for the health of our community. Health, income and education are intricately linked and this facility will revitalize downtown, attract family activities, and serve as a foundation for a vibrant, family oriented, business supported epicenter that leads to better health for our community.

This project would greatly enhance our recruitment and retention efforts to attract and retain high end talent that rural communities, such as Hagerstown, MD, often struggle to maintain. Potential residents are often looking for vibrant, urban centers as a sign of maturity in a community and this project would offer all of that and more.

Meritus Health is committed to caring for the health of our community and hope that you will offer your support to doing the same by passing this bill. Our community is counting on it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maulik Joshi".

Maulik S. Joshi, Dr.P.H.  
President and CEO  
Meritus Health

**GHC - SB-926 Letter of Support - 2021.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kercheval, Jim

Position: FAV

March 3, 2021

The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair  
Senate Budget and Tax Committee  
3 West, Miller Senate Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Subject: Senate Bill -926: “Economic Development – Maryland Stadium Authority – Hagerstown Multi–Use Sports and Events Facility”

Dear Chairman Guzzone and members of the Budget and Tax Committee:

The Greater Hagerstown Committee (GHC) strongly supports SB-926 “Economic Development – Maryland Stadium Authority – Hagerstown Multi–Use Sports and Events Facility”. This bill is critical in advancing a catalytic project in our community that will bring vitality, activity, investment, and disposable income to an area in need of support.

GHC has made “Building Vibrant Urban Centers” a major goal in our strategic plan since being founded in 1987. We see strong urban centers as a means to attract quality companies and workforce talent to our county, as well as provide a better quality of life for our citizens. As did most American cities, Hagerstown suffered the negative impacts of a national migration decades ago from urban centers to the suburbs. Jobs moved outside the city, the housing stock changed from predominately owner occupied to rental properties, and many of our historic buildings became vacant. For over 40 years, our community has worked tirelessly to change the tide and restore our urban centers back to a destination location for all. We are seeing slow progress but have had success when we’ve invested in catalytic infrastructure projects such as the University System of Maryland – Hagerstown, Barbara Ingram School for the Arts, a new regional library, expanded Maryland Theatre, a Cultural Trail, or new parking structures. Nearly all of these projects were only made possible through partnerships with the State and the private community.

GHC sees a new multi-use sports and events facility in our downtown as the catalyst to take our revitalization efforts to the next level. From study of how these facilities have impacted other communities, this project will:

- Revitalize our struggling core
- Increase our tax base to provide local governments more money to invest in critical services like police, EMS, education, etc.
- Diversify housing opportunities
- Expand offerings in our Arts and Entertainment District
- Incentivize investors to repurpose and reuse long vacant buildings – particularly upper floors
- Attract 200,000 to 400,000 people into the City’s core for events, games and concerts to bring more disposable income downtown that will sustain and support the many small businesses in this area
- Attract new businesses and new residential development to an area of great need
- Attract young and upwardly mobile people to the City’s core to live, work, and play
- Create walk-to-work jobs for disadvantaged neighborhoods

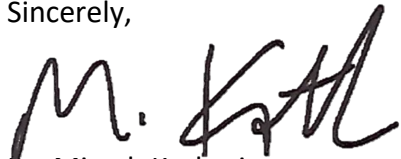


Our community is doing all we can on our side to prepare for this project. We have a local ownership group that will be investing millions to buy and build an expansion team for the Atlantic League. We are also investing in supporting infrastructure such as the final phase of our cultural trail (a key amenity that will complement the facilities design) and an \$8M new parking deck that will not only support this facility, but also the reuse of the many vacant buildings in our A&E District as investors are drawn to this area.

We are asking for your support of SB-926 to bring life to Hagerstown's urban core. This bill will authorize the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) to partner with Washington County on this endeavor and bring this catalytic project to a reality. MSA has proven to be a trusted, successful State organization to oversee projects of this magnitude – a project that smaller rural communities like ours would struggle to do on our own. MSA has successfully built stadiums and projects to areas east of us, and this bill will allow them to build their first project in Western Maryland.

We thank the Chair and members of the committee for your continued public service to all in our great state and would appreciate your support for SB-926.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Kothari', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Mitesh Kothari,  
GHC Chair

*The Greater Hagerstown Committee is comprised of corporate and civic executive leaders from over 75 local companies and organizations, employing over 10,000 people in Washington County from across the four-state area. GHC is funded solely by member dues and works collaboratively to be a catalyst for progress and growth in the Washington County, MD region.*



Greater Hagerstown Committee

MEMBERSHIP LISTING 2020-2021

(as of 02/10/21)

\*Executive Committee ♦Committee Chair ♦Lifetime member ♦Charter Member

5 Public Square, Suite 601  
Hagerstown, MD 21740  
(301) 733-8811  
www.greaterhagerstown.org

Full Active Members:

1. **Aaron, Patrick** – Total Comfort Heating
2. **Azizi, Basheer\***♦ – OpSmart
3. **Bakos, Jenny** – Wash. Co. Free Library
4. **Barr, Jonny** – Ellsworth Electric
5. **Baylor, Michael** – Ameriserv Financial
6. **Bowen, Scott♦** – MSB Architects
7. **Bowen, Taylor** – Berkshire Hathaway Bowen Realty
8. **Bowman, Don♦** – Bowman Group LLP
9. **Brezler, Ronnie** – United Bank
10. **Bryson, Richard** – The Urological Center
11. **Burke, Mary Anne** – WC Arts Council, Inc.
12. **Davis, Taylor** – Morgan-Keller Construction
13. **Day, Michael** – Law Offices Michael Day & Assoc.
14. **Ellis, Jason** – Tele-Plus Corporation
15. **Feight, Brent** – Bushey Feight Morin Architects, Inc.
16. **Fiery, Doug** – Douglas A. Fiery Funeral Home
17. **Fitzgerald, Mike** – Gideon Properties, LLC
18. **Fitzsimmons, Brendan** – RBC Wealth Management
19. **Ford, Scott** – Carson Wealth
  - Scott Toms (Delegate)
20. **Friedman, Dawn** – Herald-Mail/Gannett Inc
21. **Fritts II, Bill\*** – Smith Elliott Kearns & Company
22. **Fulton, Brad♦** – AC&T Co., Inc.
23. **Goetz, BJ\*** – Middletown Valley Bank
24. **Grach, Patrick** – Lifehouse Church
25. **Grunow, Keith** – BB&T Bank
  - Bemiller, Tracy (Delegate)
26. **Harman, Tim** – Harman Funeral Home
27. **Harrell, Mark** - CNB Bank
  - John Menard (Delegate)
28. **Harshman, Rick** - CBIZ Retirement Plan Services
29. **Hayes, Gary** – Spherion Staffing
30. **Hayes, Suzanne** – Merrill Lynch
31. **Herrera, Laura** – RBC Wealth Management
32. **Hess, Matt** – Fulton Bank
33. **Hetzer, William♦** – C. William Hetzer, Inc.
34. **Heuston, Melanie** – Meritus Health
35. **Hill, Sr., Nicholas V♦** – Callas Contractors, Inc.
36. **Holzapfel, Richie\*** – Holzapfel Investments
37. **Howell, Aaron** – Bank of Charles Town
38. **Hull, Jeff** – BJ's Custom Creations
39. **Johnston, Michael** – M.S. Johnston Company
40. **Joshi, Maulik** – Meritus Health
41. **King, Terry\*** – Leadership Development Resources
42. **Latimer, John♦** – Keller Stonebraker Insurance.
43. **Lough, Ed** – Northwestern Mutual
44. **Lynch, Brian** – Antietam Broadband
45. **McGovern, Gaye** – Gaye McGovern Insurance Agency, Inc.
46. **Moore, Tereance\*** – TM Consulting, LLC
47. **Mullendore, Alan** – First United Bank & Trust
48. **Nerenhausen, Frank** – JLG Industries, Inc.
49. **Newby, John** – John G. Newby, M.D., P.C.
50. **Radaker, Mike** – MEC, Inc.
51. **Rappaport, Jason** – Innovative Inc.

52. **Reynolds, Kent** – Keller Stonebraker Insurance
53. **Rohm, Julie\***♦ – Preit Valley Mall
54. **Rushing, Lynn** – Brook Lane Health Services
55. **Scott, Randy** – Chick-Fil-A
56. **Sears, Jim** – Potomac Edison
57. **Sherman, Gary** – Centers for Advanced Orthopaedics
58. **Shuster, Dave** – Horizon Goodwill Inc.
59. **Singer, Jeanne\*** – Law Offices of Jeanne Singer, P.A.
60. **Smith, Chris** – Battle Creek Land Co. LLC
61. **Snook, Greg** – CHIEF
62. **Spedden, Dan** – Visit Hagerstown
63. **Toothman, Jeffrey** – Toothman Orthodontics
64. **Weiss, Michael\***♦ – Weiss Bros.
65. **Whiteside, Brittany** – Patriot Federal Credit Union
  - Karen Boyer (Delegate)
66. **Williams, Noel** – Williams Solution Group

Lifetime Full Active Members:

67. **Bowen, Blackie♦♦** – Ewing Oil Co., Inc. (paying dues)
68. **Kothari, Mitesh♦♦** – Capital Women's Care (consumed dues)

Retired Members:

1. **Alter, Wayne**
2. **Barton, William**
3. **Baykan, Mary**
4. **Brake, Harold**
5. **Cirincione, Robert**
6. **Fulton, Adna**
7. **Martin, Al**
8. **Perini, Kathleen♦**
9. **Perini Peter**
10. **Pierne, Jim**
11. **Rhoads, Ross♦**
12. **Schnebly, John**
13. **Wright, Gary**
14. **Young, William P., Jr♦**

Ex-Officio Members:

1. **Downey, Kirk C.** – Washington Co Gov't.
2. **Duncan, Kimberly** – OnTrack WC
3. **Frey, Paul** – WC Chamber of Commerce
4. **Halsey, Mark** - USMH
5. **Klauber, Jim** – Hagerstown Community College
6. **Michael, Boyd** - WCPs
7. **Nicewarner, Scott** – City of Hagerstown
8. **Sargent, Tara** – Leadership Washington Co.

Honorary Members:

1. **Callahan, Art** – Retired Executive Director of GHC
2. **Elliott, Merle♦** – Smith Elliott & Kearns (*deceased*)
3. **Noia, Al** – Allegany Energy
4. **Reuter, William♦** – Susquehanna Bancshares Inc



# **SB926 WCCC Support.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kercheval, Jim

Position: FAV



- Washington County Government
- City of Hagerstown
- Hagerstown Community College
- Washington Co. Free Library
- Town of Williamsport
- The Greater Hagerstown Committee, Inc.
- Hagerstown-Washington Co. Chamber of Commerce
- Visit Hagerstown (Local Convention & Visitor's Bureau)
- CHIEF (Hagerstown-Washington Co. Industrial Foundation)

Washington County Community Coalition Lobbyist: John Favazza, Esquire Mannis Canning & Associate. 410.263.7882 [jfavazza@maniscanning.com](mailto:jfavazza@maniscanning.com)

March 3, 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 Sports and Events Facility

Dear Senator Guzzone,

The Washington County Community Coalition (WCCC) was formed in 2005 to lobby MD State Legislators on issues that are important to the community. The WCCC brings an issue to MD State Legislators only when it has the unanimous approval of the partners. The WCCC is funded through the financial commitment of the partners. WCCC partners include Washington County Government, The City of Hagerstown, Hagerstown Community College, Washington County Library System, The Town of Williamsport, Visit Hagerstown (Convention & Visitors Bureau), Washington County Chamber of Commerce, CHIEF (Washington County Industrial Foundation), and The Greater Hagerstown Committee.

The WCCC is in full support Senate Bill 926. The Bill supports an economic development project targeting the struggling downtown district of The City Hagerstown for redevelopment and revitalization. This project will increase investor confidence in the downtown and invite young and upwardly mobile people back into the downtown to live. This project will create hundreds of walk-to-work jobs for City residents at the ballpark, our existing small businesses, and at the many dining, retail, and hospitality businesses that will follow.

Under the management of The MD Stadium Authority, as SB926 calls for, we will have the expertise and experience needed to design and build this facility. The MD Stadium Authority has completed many powerful economic development projects, helping the communities they work in to thrive. We like to think that it is Hagerstown's turn be a partner with The MD Stadium Authority in order to bring this catalytic project to a reality.

The Washington County Community Coalition urges your favorable support of Senate Bill 926.

Sincerely,

Paul Frey, *Managing Partner for The Washington County Community Coalition*

**USMH Support Letter SB-926.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kercheval, Jim

Position: FAV



March 3, 2021

Maryland Senate Budget & Tax Committee  
Maryland General Assembly  
Annapolis, MD

Dear Senators and Fellow Marylanders,

Washington County has experienced significant change over the past couple of years with regard to family activities in downtown Hagerstown. Our existing baseball stadium is old and most would say beyond repair, not the least reason being that it lies in a floodplain. And we have recently lost our Minor League Baseball team. A new facility in a new location is sorely needed to promote Downtown Revitalization, growth in tourism and hospitality, and being home to a newly planned Baseball team.

The University System of Maryland at Hagerstown specifically has Downtown Revitalization in its Mission Statement. Not only do we pursue it with our own expansions, but support other organizations in their efforts to revitalize downtown. Every USMH academic building (4) was vacant and in need of significant reconstruction before put into use. We have also worked with local developers in creating private student housing. Both such buildings were vacant eyesores and now with private investment, these buildings are generating income for the developers and providing needed residence for our students. We are seeing the impact of all of these investments on our downtown core, and believe that investment in a new stadium and multi-activity facility will further strengthen the city's economy.

Our Hospitality and Tourism Management degree program, offered by the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, is newly housed in what was an old vacant bank building. We are leasing this space from developers who invested significantly in its renovation to our specs, placing it once more on the tax rolls. The new stadium being proposed in Senate Bill 926 would be another contributor to Washington County's second-largest economic driver – the Hospitality and Tourism industry.

We heartily support the construction of a new facility for multi-use family activities in Downtown, including being home to a new Minor League Baseball team, other sports and outdoor events. This facility, and the teams and activities it would attract, should bring increased foot traffic and vibrancy to Downtown, and should increase the likelihood of keeping residents in the County and potentially new ones moving in. We would work in close partnership with this initiative.

I trust you will give every consideration to support of Senate Bill 926.

Sincerely,

Mark C. Halsey  
Executive Director

[mchalsey@hagerstown.usmd.edu](mailto:mchalsey@hagerstown.usmd.edu)

# **Support letter for Senate Bill 926.pdf**

Uploaded by: Rohm, Julie

Position: FAV



17301 Valley Mall Road  
Hagerstown, MD 21740  
Tel: 301.582.0701 • Fax: 301.582.1617

March 4, 2021

Maryland Senate Budget & Taxation Committee  
RE: Senate Bill 926  
Annapolis, Maryland

Senators:

I would like to voice my support of Senate Bill 926 for the Multiuse Sports & Events Arena in Hagerstown. To build a facility of this nature, in our area, will greatly enhance the economy of Western Maryland not just Hagerstown. The location chosen is in the city's core. This area lies within an Opportunity Zone that will bring other businesses and entertainment venues to the downtown and also help current businesses thrive, as the area, hard hit due to COVID, tries to rebound. The Arena will drive investor confidence into the City's core. Not only will this bring additional tourism into the area, it will support the current employment and create new employment opportunities. The most disadvantaged population in Hagerstown will be able to find employment, as the location is within walking distance or easily accessed via public transportation.

As multiple events would be held at this location, the hospitality and tourism industry, within the county would reap the benefits. As a business located outside the city's core, we recognize that having a strong center city only expands to the outer edges making Hagerstown more viable than ever before. The draw of this facility would continue the growth of the retail, hotel and restaurant industries in Hagerstown, especially at the already growing Halfway Blvd area where the Valley Mall is located.

Many other counties have seen economic projects from the lottery commissions. Washington County has supported the lottery, by contributing \$39M to the State in 2020 alone. We understand that some of these proceeds have come back to our schools, but based on the amounts, it is clear that we have not come close to seeing a significant return spent in Western Maryland from our yearly contributions. The counties that have seen tourism driving projects experienced major economic growth. It would be nice for Western Maryland to be on the receiving end of your support at this time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie M Rohm". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Julie M. Rohm  
General Manager  
Valley Mall, Hagerstown  
Francis Scott Key Mall, Frederick

# **Staduim letter of support.pdf**

Uploaded by: Rowe, Cindy

Position: FAV

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



**SB 926 Testimony by HCWHA2.pdf**

Uploaded by: Shatto, Elizabeth

Position: FAV



Testimony to:  
Maryland Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Name: Elizabeth Scott Shatto, Executive Director  
Organization: Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area (HCWHA)  
Issue: **Senate Bill 926 Economic Development – Maryland Stadium Authority – Hagerstown Multi-Use 2 Sports and Events Facility.**  
Position: Support

The Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area has good reason to support Senate Bill 926 and the development of a new minor league baseball stadium in Hagerstown. While our role is to invest in and support the development of heritage tourism product, we know that the broader offerings of our destination are what inspire a visitor to choose our area over other places for their leisure time and spending.

As stated in our Management Plan, under the heading of Various & Distinctive Commercial offerings, “Travelers do not live by history and Civil War sites alone.” The 2005 plan goes on to specifically mention Washington County’s abundance of sports and recreation activities as having capacity to grow and do more for heritage tourism, calling out Hagerstown Suns Baseball in a chart of attractions. Sadly, the contraction of the Minor League Hagerstown Suns by Major League Baseball, with the added complication of the pandemic, has limited Hagerstown’s ability to deliver what Civil War travelers want when they are not on the battlefield or exploring a history museum: memorable hospitality services – restaurants, lodging, and shopping opportunities – as part of their leisure experiences. The good news is that Hagerstown and the surrounding small towns are well situated to rise to the opportunities that will come with the business stimulated by a new minor league baseball stadium - bed and breakfasts and hotels, and Main Street shopping, restaurants and craft beverage makers are poised to respond to demand that will come with the stadium.

In terms of heritage experiences, our partners continue to develop new and diverse ways to draw audiences. Space does not permit me to enumerate, but some of the most exciting, most inclusive, and most sophisticated new tourism products seen in decades are about to open in Washington County. Yet, when heritage travelers weigh their choices as they plan vacations, it can often be the array of additional amenities that determines where leisure time will be spent. A new stadium will certainly help pull the scales in the direction of Hagerstown for folks deciding where their discretionary spending will find the best balance of opportunity for their families.

Of course, in the minds of many Americans, Washington County is the very place where baseball originated. Legend has it that during the Civil War, General Abner Doubleday occupied the hill and played (and created the game of) baseball on the field below what is now known as Doubleday Hill. This is recognized to be a myth, but the romance of baseball and the Civil War calls to visitors and we happily welcome them while gently debunking the myth. And it is true that Doubleday and his men were briefly bunkered down along the Potomac River, just a few miles from where the new stadium will be built. Surely, Hagerstown is the place for Maryland’s next minor league baseball stadium, and without delay.

I urge your support of Senate Bill 926.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Scott Shatto  
Executive Director

**CARROLL COUNTY**  
HAMPSTEAD  
MANCHESTER  
MOUNT AIRY  
NEW WINDSOR  
SYKESVILLE  
TANEYTOWN  
UNION BRIDGE  
WESTMINSTER

**FREDERICK COUNTY**  
BRUNSWICK  
BURKITTSVILLE  
EMMITSBURG  
FREDERICK  
MIDDLETOWN  
MOUNT AIRY  
MYERSVILLE  
NEW MARKET  
ROSEMONT  
THURMONT  
WOODSBORO

**WASHINGTON COUNTY**  
BOONSBORO  
CLEAR SPRING  
FUNKSTOWN  
HAGERSTOWN  
HANCOCK  
KEEDYSVILLE  
SHARPSBURG  
SMITHSBURG  
WILLIAMSPORT

# **SB 926 Support PDF.pdf**

Uploaded by: Spedden, Daniel

Position: FAV

# 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*

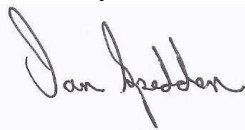
Dear Senator Guzzone,

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

**SB 926 - Support Letter Stadium Authority.pdf**

Uploaded by: Wivell, William

Position: FAV

SENATOR PAUL D. CORDERMAN  
SENATOR GEORGE C. EDWARDS



DELEGATE WILLIAM J. WIVELL  
CHAIR  
DELEGATE MIKE W. MCKAY  
VICE-CHAIR

DELEGATE NEIL C. PARROTT  
DELEGATE BRENDA J. THIAM

THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  
WASHINGTON COUNTY DELEGATION

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

The Honorable Senator Guy Guzzone  
Budget and Tax Committee  
3 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Senator Guzzone;

The Washington County Delegation voted 5-1 in favor to support “SB 926: Economic Development – Maryland Stadium Authority – Hagerstown Multi-Use Sports and Events Facility.” Your support of this bill is appreciated.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me by email at [William.Wivell@house.state.md.us](mailto:William.Wivell@house.state.md.us), or by phone at 410-841-3447.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. Wivell".

William J. Wivell, Chair  
Washington County Delegation