

Gerry L. Brewster
Chairman of the Board – The Maryland State Fair and Agricultural Society, Inc.
2200 York Road, Lutherville-Timonium, MD 21093
Testifying in Support of HB0940

Community Commitment:

- Thank you, Speaker Jones, Chair Kaiser, and Distinguished Committee Members.
- I am Gerry Brewster, the Chairman of your Maryland State Fair.
- The Maryland State Fair and Agricultural Society is a 501(c)(3) volunteer led nonprofit, hosting two million annual visitors.
- During the coronavirus pandemic, the State Fair has served Marylanders as:
 - 1st location in Maryland to offer free coronavirus testing without the need for a doctor's note or appointment.
 - Hosted Baltimore County pop-up food markets and Amigos of Baltimore County / 4MyCiTy food drives to benefit Latino and immigrant communities.
 - Hosted weekly American Red Cross blood drives.
 - Hosted emergency management vehicles
 - Offered 600 stalls to the State Veterinarian's office to shelter the livestock of farmers who contracted COVID-19.
 - Hosted jury trial selection, free flu vaccinations, coronavirus vaccinations, and more

Sports Wagering:

- The Fairgrounds is well-positioned to bring money in from Pennsylvania and also to keep MD dollars in MD.
- According to the independent Johnson Consulting Report, if the Fairgrounds was brought up to date, it would generate an additional \$55-60 million in annual economic impact for Maryland.
- However, the State Fairgrounds is in need of a long-term revenue stream to address critical capital needs, which sports wagering could provide.
- The Baltimore County House and Senate Delegations voted unanimously to support the State Fair being awarded a sports wagering license with mobile.
- The State Fair's 31-member Board gave their unanimous approval
- The State Fair received broad community support for a sports wagering facility. An umbrella organization representing 50 neighboring community associations and 50,000 residents supports the State Fairgrounds being granted a sports wagering license.
- The State Fair's OTB is the #1 OTB in the state of Maryland, and the Maryland State Fair's Grandstand and Community Center is already equipped to handle the needs of a sports wagering facility.
- The Maryland State Fairgrounds also hosts emergency storm crews, State and local police departments, other first responders, schoolchildren, veterans' organizations, and more than 10,000 youth playing sports.
- Thanks to your leadership, the Maryland State Fair has become a national model on how to do things right, and with your help, we will continue to make Maryland proud.