# HB0896 - 04.08.22 (in Senate) --Maryland Stadium A Uploaded by: Donald Fry

Position: FAV

#### TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

# HOUSE BILL 896 – MARYLAND STADIUM AUTHORITY – INCREASE OF BOND AUTHORIZATION – CAMDEN YARDS

**Sponsor – Chair, Appropriations Committee (By Request - Departmental - Stadium Authority)** 

**April 8, 2022** 

# DONALD C. FRY PRESIDENT & CEO GREATER BALTIMORE COMMITTEE

**Position: Support** 

House Bill 896 would increase the amount of taxable or tax exempt bonds that the Maryland Stadium Authority (the Authority) may issue for the two sports facilities at the Camden Yards complex, Oriole Park at Camden Yards and M&T Bank Stadium. The two stadiums serve as the home for the Baltimore Orioles baseball franchise and the Baltimore Ravens football franchise, respectively.

Specifically the bill would permit the Authority to borrow in the bond market up to \$1.2 billion, an increase from the current cap of \$235 million. The bill would permit borrowing up to \$600 million for each facility.

The bill would also require the Authority to negotiate a lease (or renewal or extension of a lease) with the two teams' ownership prior to financing the acquisition and construction of any part of a sports facility and to obtain the approval of the Legislative Policy Committee and Board of Public Works of any lease, renewal, or extension. It would also alter the amount that the state Comptroller would be required to distribute from the State Lottery Fund to the Maryland Stadium Facilities Fund.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) strongly supports this legislation because it would serve to ensure the stadiums are properly modernized as needed in future years, thereby greatly extending the useful life span of the facilities to 75-80 years each. The bill would also serve to ensure both teams remain in Baltimore in the long-term.

With the current cost of a new professional sports stadium well over \$1 billion –SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles cost an estimated \$5 billion – it makes prudent economic sense to fund needed renovations and modernizations as they arise to avoid the potential of either stadium becoming outdated and needing to replaced should the Orioles or Ravens ownership seek a new stadium as a condition of staying in Baltimore. It is worth noting that the Texas Rangers' stadium was built after Orioles Park opened and subsequently has been replaced with a new stadium (Choctaw Stadium), which cost an estimated \$1.2 billion. The city of Arlington, Texas contributed \$500 million toward the stadium costs.

The GBC also contends that the economic benefit of the two stadiums is immensely significant to Baltimore, the greater Baltimore region and to the State of Maryland.

This economic impact extends to nearby retail shops, restaurants, hotels, parking vendors and more which cater to local and out-of-town fans. It is estimated by the Authority that the stadiums have contributed more than \$1 billion in tax revenue for the city, region, and state.

Based on statistics compiled annually by a consultant to the Maryland Stadium Authority, the Orioles and Ravens have contributed the following to the city, regional and state economy since 1992 (all figures are approximate):

	Orioles	Ravens
85 million visitors	70 million	15 million
\$15.9 billion in total spending	\$9.2 billion	\$6.7 billion
4,000 jobs each year	2,400	1,600
\$8.3 billion in employee earnings	\$4.8 billion	\$3.5 billion
\$1.0 billion in state revenues	\$0.6 billion	\$0.4 billion

The loss of this vital economic activity would be significant, especially on the many small businesses in the area surrounding Camden Yards that rely heavily on the venue's activity to stay in business and support the jobs they provide.

The GBC also contends that renovations and modernizations undertaken with the increased funding would be leveraged by the teams in the marketing of their sport and to retain and attract fans. That, in turn, would result in added income for the teams, as well as additional income for the state as lease payments are based on the amount of money generated by teams through fan attendance. Another key economic benefit is that the state's increased investment in the stadiums is likely to yield new private investment near the stadiums. The Horseshoe Casino, the Paramount concert venue, and Top Golf near the Camden Yards complex are examples of the type of major investment that could be spurred by stadiums modernized as fan expectations and infrastructure needs demand.

In addition, the bill would establish an important beneficial relationship between the teams and the state. For one, the increased borrowing authority and structure will create an "evergreen" partnership. Specifically, the Orioles and the Ravens will each be provided the flexibility to seek funding for stadium improvements without being required to return repeatedly for legislative approval to make improvements to the facilities.

This bill is consistent with two of the key tenets in *Gaining the Competitive Edge: Keys to Economic Growth and Job Creation in Maryland*, a report published by the GBC that identifies eight core pillars for a competitive business environment and job growth:

Strategic and effective state investments in business growth. The state must commit to substantive strategic investments, leveraged with capital assets, to nurture business and job growth. Investments should include competitive and effective tax credits, business development incentives, and tactical initiatives to nurture private investment in industry growth.

Government leadership that unites with business as a partner. Maryland leaders must set a welcoming tone that communicates positive support for business, respect for the private sector as a partner, not an adversary, and reflects a strategic plan for business growth and job creation.

Increasing the borrowing power of the Authority will provide certainty to the Orioles and Ravens organizations that they will be able to move forward with needed improvements and modernizations in the future and thus assure that both teams will remain in Baltimore for the long-term. This form of partnership would be mutually beneficial to all of the parties involved.

### For these reasons, the Greater Baltimore Committee urges a favorable report of House Bill 896.

The Greater Baltimore Committee (GBC) is a non-partisan, independent, regional business advocacy organization comprised of hundreds of businesses -- large, medium and small -- educational institutions, nonprofit organizations and foundations located in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, and Howard counties as well as Baltimore City. The GBC is a 67-year-old, private-sector membership organization with a rich legacy of working with government to find solutions to problems that negatively affect our competitiveness and viability.

# FAV\_MSA\_HB896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increas Uploaded by: Gary McGuigan

Position: FAV



Larry Hogan Governor

Michael J. Frenz Executive Director

Members

Thomas E. Kelso

Leonard J. Attman Joseph C. Bryce Michael Huber Gary L. Mangum Manervia W. Riddick Jodi C. Stanalonis

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

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

### **Maryland Stadium Authority - Letter of Support**

HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards

### **BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE**

The Honorable, Senator, Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator, Jim Rosapepe Vice Chair

Written Testimony, Letter of Support
Thomas Kelso, Chairman, Maryland Stadium Authority
Michael J. Frenz, Executive Director, Maryland Stadium Authority

Good afternoon, Chair Guzzone and Vice Chair Rosapepe and honorable members of the Budget and Taxation Committee, I am Thomas Kelso, the Chairman with Michael J. Frenz, the Executive Director of the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) and we appreciate the opportunity to provide this written Letter of Support for HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase Of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards.

This legislation, HB 896 addresses the future of Camden Yards Sports Complex as the teams seek to renew their strong commitment to the State of Maryland and collaborate with MSA on long-term improvements over time designed to extend the useful lives of the stadiums and increase the economic impact from the stadiums for the State, the City, and the teams.

In order to address the long-term future of the stadiums, this legislation was introduced to increase the debt cap from \$235 million to \$1.2 billion, with \$600 million allocated to each stadium. To service the debt, the amount allocated from lottery proceeds will be capped at \$90 million from the current \$20 million. These improvements are designed to increase the economic impact of the stadiums for the State, the City, and the teams.

The MSA's bonding authority was last increased in 1986, this legislation seeks to modify the amount, and retains all the necessary approvals and oversight required for the MSA's projects for the past 35 years. The amount of lottery funds to be requested each year will be only the amount needed for the outstanding debt service, not the full amount.

MSA continues to work with both the Baltimore Orioles and Baltimore Ravens in order to ensure that the stadiums remain best-in-class facilities in terms of safety and fan experience. The creative approach contained in this legislation allows the MSA to work with each team individually to develop, design and construct improvements that will increase returns for them and for the State and City. The MSA believes that our ability to work continuously with each team simultaneously to invest in the stadiums is a critical element to the successful negotiation of agreements that will retain them in Baltimore.

The Camden Yards Sports Complex was the result of visionary leadership and has been a successful investment for the City of Baltimore and the State of Maryland and an important year-round community asset. With this legislation, the State of Maryland, through the MSA, will further that vision for the next generation and expand the exemplary economic development partnerships with both professional teams.

As stadium and fan experience trends evolve, this legislation creates an evergreen and flexible fund for both innovative revenue-generating improvements that align with the teams' long-term needs and all of the necessary infrastructure investments required to keep our stadiums competitive. The success of this proposed legislation, and the continuing investments it affords will help ensure the longevity and prosperity of the Camden Yards Sports Complex long into the future.

Since 1992, there has been approximately \$15.9 billion in total spending at the Camden Yards Sports Complex, with \$9.2 billion attributed to the Baltimore Orioles and \$6.7 billion attributed to the Baltimore Ravens. Based on tax revenues of a \$1 billion, less \$670 million in debt service in bonds issued to build the Camden Yards Sports Complex, the State of Maryland has earned a \$330 million return on its investment.

Since 1992	Orioles	Ravens
Approximately 85 million visitors	70 million	15 million
Approximately \$15.9 billion in total spending	\$9.2 billion	\$6.7 billion
Approximately 4,000 jobs each year	2,400	1,600
Approximately \$8.3 billion in employee earnings	\$4.8 billion	\$3.5 billion
Approximately \$1.0 billion in state revenues	\$0.6 billion	\$0.4 billion
Approximately \$670 million in debt service	\$0.45 billion Oriole Park at Camden Yards	\$0.22 billion M&T Bank Stadium

In closing, this legislation demonstrates, through the MSA, Maryland's firm financial commitment to the Baltimore Orioles and the Baltimore Ravens and their respective leagues to remain in our State at the Camden Yards Sports Complex for many years to come. For the reasons expressed in this letter, we request a favorable report on HB 896.



Office of Government Relations 88 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**HB 896** 

April 8, 2022

**TO:** Members of the Senate Budget and Tax Committee

**FROM:** Natasha Mehu, Director, Office of Government Relations

**RE:** House Bill 896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization -

Camden Yards

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 896.

HB 896 would increase the caps on debt issuance and debt service amounts for the Camden Yards Sports Complex, which includes Oriole Park at Camden Yards and M&T Bank Stadium, to enable necessary investments in and redevelopment of the site. The Camden Yards Sports Complex is an important source of entertainment, jobs, tourism, and associated revenue for not only Baltimore City but the State of Maryland. Ensuring the complex can be not only renovated but reimagined for the continued enjoyment of our residents is important to the Scott Administration.

Year-round events at the Camden Yards Sports Complex create jobs and generate sports, leisure, and business visitor spending with the resulting tax revenues reinvested to fund essential citizen services and improve Marylander's quality of life. Positive images of our City during broadcasts of home games communicate to viewers that Maryland is open for both business and leisure.

The complex provides significant value to all Marylanders. In addition to MLB and NLF games, facilities are also used year-round for major motion picture and television locations, international soccer matches, college sports, concerts, V.I.P. visits, cultural festivals plus corporate events, non-profit fundraisers, graduations, proms, weddings, and family functions. In the event of severe weather events, the Camden Yards Sports Complex houses emergency crews, their



The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair Budget and Taxation Committee 3 West Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB0896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to enthusiastically submit support HB896 on behalf of the Downtown Partnership of Baltimore (DPOB) and its Board of Directors. The Business Community created DPOB in 1983 to foster a clean, safe, and welcoming environment for residents, businesses, and tourists. DPOB is represented by more than ninety-one prominent businesses and community stakeholders on its board and 650 members.

While Downtown has its challenges, our momentum over the past 18 months is trending in the right direction and essential to the economic vitality of the City. The Administration's commitment to relocating the state agencies to the core of Downtown was a much-needed catalyst. Results of an economic impact study on the traditional core by economic development expert, Richard Clinch, PhD, highlighted Downtown as the economic driver of the city, while also noting the need to update infrastructure and increase amenities to support the anticipated growth.

The development of the Camden Yards Sports Complex was visionary and inspired a generation of urban revitalization across the nation. With its national prominence, the complex welcomes sports and entertainment experiences that help make Baltimore a destination of choice. As a result, Downtown receives incredible economic benefits with impact beyond the field and into nearby restaurants, hotels, and office suites. The stadiums provide access to amenities that residents, visitors, and businesses want while injecting vitality into our urban core. This is no time, given our history, to take our two stadiums for granted. We must go forward with vision as we did 30 years ago!

The Downtown Partnership of Baltimore staff and board understand the value of HB0896, which increases the caps on debt issuance and debt service amounts for the Camden Yards Sports Complex. Passage of this legislation will incentivize the Orioles and Ravens to renew their commitments to the State of Maryland and provide resources to increase the already significant economic impacts of the stadiums. This legislation demonstrates Maryland's financial commitment to the teams and their leagues for them to remain in the State for years to come. And this legislation also highlights the State's commitment to investing in the City of Baltimore and all of us who call home, work, or a great place to visit.

If you have any questions or require anything additional, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Shelonda Stokes

Shelonda Stakes

President

Downtown Partnership of Baltimore

vehicles, and equipment, plus the Maryland National Guard for any humanitarian relief as necessary. During the especially challenging times of the pandemic, the Camden Yards Sports Complex was transformed into a food relief hub, voting center, testing, and mass vaccination site, serving Marylanders in their greatest time of need.

The time is now to holistically redevelop Camden as the MSA, the Baltimore Orioles, and the Baltimore Ravens reimagining the Camden Yards Sports Complex as the teams seek to renew their strong commitment to the State of Maryland. These stakeholders function as economic development partners with the shared goal of funding facility infrastructure and fan-friendly improvements, while creating a business environment for continued success.

The iconic Camden Yards Sports Complex resulted from visionary leadership and has been a successful investment and an important year-round entertainment and community asset for Maryland. This legislation expands on that vision for the next generation and demonstrates Maryland's firm financial commitment to the Baltimore Orioles and the Baltimore Ravens and their respective leagues. We hope this legislation can ensure that the Camden Yards Sports Complex remains a top destination for future generations of Marylanders' enjoyment and enrichment.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 896.



April 5, 2022

The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB0896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards
HB0987 - Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

Dear Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore (EAGB), I am writing to register our strong support for HB0896. The legislation will increase the cap on debt issuance and debt service from the current limit of \$235M to \$1.2B to be used to improve and enhance the facilities within the Camden Yards Sports Complex. By providing the resources needed for Oriole Park and M&T Stadium to remain competitive top-of-class homes for the Orioles and the Ravens, the State of Maryland will demonstrate their commitment to keeping the teams in Baltimore for years to come.

EAGB is a regional business organization dedicated to marketing the economic assets of the Greater Baltimore region, elevating the Region to a location of choice for employment, investment, and business location. We work in collaboration with our board members and other stakeholders to help catalyze economic opportunities and create pathways that enable residents throughout the region to be able to take advantage of these opportunities.

EAGB's member jurisdictions – Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Howard, Cecil, Carroll, Harford and Baltimore Counties – collaborate on programs and activities that celebrate the strengths of the entire Region, recognizing that the assets of one jurisdiction benefit the others and that Baltimore City is the heart of the Region. A vibrant Camden Yards as the home of two



major league teams is a major asset for the entire Region and a critical element of the City's economic health and vitality.

The Camden Yards Sports Complex was a game changer for stadium development as a catalyst for urban revitalization across the country. More importantly, for over three decades Camden Yards has been a catalyst for economic development resulting in significant economic benefits for Baltimore City, the Greater Baltimore region and the State. This legislation, once passed, will continue this tradition of visionary and future-focused leadership

We also urge approval of HB0897, as amended. Authorizing the Maryland Stadium Authority to issue bonds to assist in advancing the sports and sports entertainment industries throughout the State by financing the acquisition, design and construction of facilities needed for these industries to grow will bring significant direct and indirect economic benefits to the Greater Baltimore region and the entire State.

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and members of the Committee, we urge you to approve HB0896 and HB897. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Respectfully,

Michele Whelley President & CEO

CC: EAGB Board of Directors

List Attached



# **2022 EAGB BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **OFFICERS**

CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield: Brian Pieninck, President & CEO – Chair of the Board Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore: Michele Whelley – President & CEO Ellin & Tucker, Chartered: Edwin R. Brake, Managing Director & CEO – Treasurer Whiteford Taylor Preston LLP: Martin T. Fletcher, Managing Partner – Secretary of Counsel

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Howard County Government: Calvin Ball, County Executive The Howard Hughes Corporation: Greg Fitchitt, President

LifeBridge Health, Neil Meltzer, President & CEO

Loyola University of Maryland: John Coppola, VP - Finance and Administration/Treasurer

1200 Steuart Street, Unit C1B, Baltimore, MD 21230



Maryland Department of Commerce: Mike Gill, Secretary

Miles & Stockbridge: Nancy Greene, Chair

Morgan Stanley: John DeLong, Managing Director

Morgan State University: Dr. David Kwabena Wilson, President

NetCraftsmen: Paul Mauritz, President & CEO

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RSM: Art Yonowitz, Partner – Tax Services

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Verizon Communications: Eric Reed, Vice President – Public Policy & Local Engagement

Wells Fargo: Derek Lynch, Senior Vice President, Commercial Banking Leader

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Cybersecurity Association of Maryland: Chris Sachse, CEO, Think | Stack

Cybersecurity Association of Maryland: Shelley Lombardo, COO, Evergreen Advisors

Maryland Tech Council: Todd Marks (Chair of MTC), President & CEO - Mindgrub

Regional Manufacturing Institute: Michael Galiazzo, President

U.S. House of Representatives: Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger - <u>Director Emeritus</u>



400 E PRATT ST, 10TH FLOOR BALTIMORE, MD 21202

BALTIMORE.ORG

### **HB896**

April 7, 2022

TO: Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

FROM: Al Hutchinson, President & CEO, Visit Baltimore

RE: HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization Camden Yards

POSITION: SUPPORT

Honorable Chair Guzzone, and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

Visit Baltimore **supports HB896** Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization Camden Yards.

Visit Baltimore, the official destination marketing organization of Baltimore, supports the reinvestment in the Camden Yards Sports Complex that creates jobs and generates economic benefits to our city from business and leisure travelers throughout the year.

The iconic Camden Yards Sports Complex in Baltimore, which includes Oriole Park and M&T Bank Stadium, is one of the most recognizable landmarks and attractions in Maryland. Positive media impressions during game day telecasts, especially during All Star and play-off games elevates Baltimore as a destination, inspires civic pride and encourages visitation by sports fans and conference guests.

Since 1992, approximately 80 million visitors have contributed to an estimated \$15.9 billion in total spending at the Camden Yards Sports Complex, with \$9.2 billion attributed to the Baltimore Orioles and \$6.7 billion attributed to the Baltimore Ravens.

Visit Baltimore supports this legislation that expands on the visionary leadership that created the Camden Yards Sports Complex.

Submitted respectfully,

Al Hutchinson President & CEO



#### **SUPPORT**

### HB896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards HB897 - Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

April 6, 2022

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe & Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

As the sole statewide trade association dedicated to advocacy for Maryland's lodging industry, with more than 700 hotels totaling 75,000+ rooms, we support HB896 and HB897.

In order to address the long-term future of the stadiums, HB896 was introduced to increase the debt cap from \$235 million to \$1.2 billion, with \$600 million allocated to each stadium. To service the debt, the amount allocated from lottery proceeds will be capped at \$90 million from the current \$20 million. These improvements are designed to increase the economic impact of the stadiums for the State, the City, and the teams.

Companion legislation, HB897, was also introduced to create a \$200 million fund to promote the development of sports entertainment facilities across the state, including minor league stadiums where renovations will be necessary to maintain affiliations with major league teams. These minor league teams provide economic benefits to communities and promote synergies between the Orioles and their Maryland-based affiliates.

HB 896 and HB 897 would elevate the state as a sports tourism destination. Camden Yards Sports Complex is a valuable year-round community asset that helps to generate hotel stays and support jobs in Baltimore City and the surrounding areas. The minor league ballparks located in Aberdeen, Bowie, Frederick, Hagerstown, Salisbury and Waldorf do the same in those six local communities.

It is the desire of our members for these stadiums to remain competitive as best-in-class facilities to keep baseball teams and fans here in Maryland. Hotel guests spend \$5B annually throughout the state and hotels generate \$602M in state and local tax. Our industry provides great economic benefit to local communities when hotels are full. In fact, every 10 occupied rooms per night supports nearly 25 local jobs.

For the reasons expressed in this letter, we request a favorable report on HB H96 & HB 897.

Respectfully submitted, Amy Rohrer, CAE President & CEO



April 8, 2022
The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

HB896 - MARYLAND STADIUM AUTHORITY - INCREASE OF BOND AUTHORIZATION - CAMDEN YARDS

Dear Senator Guy Guzzone and Senator Rosapepe,

My name is Kristin Hanna and I am the legislative chair for the Maryland Tourism Coalition as well as the Senior Director of Marketing for Flying Dog Brewery. I am writing on behalf of Maryland Tourism Coalition today - an organization that represents tourism and hospitality businesses in Maryland. As we continue to battle the effects to COVID-19, we recognize that any support for Camden Yards will be a huge benefit to our entire eco-system. We urge you all to support increasing the debt cap listed in HB 896.

In order to address the long-term future of the stadiums, legislation was introduced to increase the debt cap from \$235 million to \$1.2 billion, with \$600 million allocated to each stadium. To service the debt, the amount allocated from lottery proceeds will be capped at \$90 million from the current \$20 million. These improvements are designed to increase the economic impact of the stadiums for the State, the City, and the teams.

Year-round events at the Camden Yards Sports Complex create jobs and generate sports, leisure and business visitor spending with the resulting tax revenues reinvested to fund essential citizen services and improve Marylander's quality of life. Positive images of our State during broadcasts of home games communicate to viewers that Maryland is 'Open for Business'.

In addition to MLB and NLF games, usage of the facilities for major motion picture and television locations, international soccer matches, college sports, concerts, V.I.P. visits, cultural festivals plus corporate events, non-profit fundraisers, graduations, proms, weddings, and family functions, further contribute to the value of the Camden Yards Sports Complex for Marylanders throughout the year.

As we compete with surrounding states to attract visitors, investing in our assets is critical. We know the resiliency of this amazing community and we look forward to your support moving forward.

Sincerely,

Kristin Hanna

Kristin Hanna
MTC Legislative Chair
Flying Dog Senior Director of Marketing
<a href="mailto:kristin.hanna@flyingdog.com">kristin.hanna@flyingdog.com</a>
480-710-2920

## JOHN MORTON, III POST OFFICE BOX 9765 ARNOLD, MARYLAND 21012

April 5, 2022

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

Re: Letter of Support - HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards To Chair Guzzone and the Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

I am John Morton III, Chairman Emeritus of the Maryland Stadium Authority, and offer my support of HB0896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards that further elevates Maryland as sports destination by investing in our award-winning facilities to maintain our professional teams and create business opportunities across the state for years to come.

The Camden Yards Sports Complex was a game changer for stadium construction, inspiring a generation of urban revitalization across the nation and serving as a catalyst for economic development for our city and state. Year-round events at the Camden Yards Sports Complex creates jobs and generates visitor spending with the resulting tax revenues reinvested to fund essential citizen services and improving Marylander's quality of life. Since 1992, by welcoming over 80 million visitors, there has been an estimated \$15.9 billion in total visitor spending at the Camden Yards Sports Complex, with \$9.2 billion attributed to the Baltimore Orioles and \$6.7 billion attributed to the Baltimore Ravens.

HB 896 before you today addresses the future of Camden Yards Sports Complex as the Orioles and the Ravens seek to renew their strong commitment to the State of Maryland and collaborate with MSA on long-term improvements over time designed to increase the economic impact of the stadiums for the state, the city, and the teams. This legislation demonstrates, through the MSA, Maryland's firm financial commitment to the Orioles and the Ravens and their respective leagues to stay and play in Maryland.

In closing, Maryland is blessed with two of the finest stadiums in Major League Baseball and the National Football League. It would be a tragedy for the State to see either one of these stadiums sit empty and without the Orioles or the Ravens. There would be a devastating economic impact on the State and the City and all Marylanders would experience immeasurable loss in the quality of life.

Maryland should not take for granted that our teams will always be with us in Baltimore or the State. Both teams have private ownership and many cities would provide significant incentives to lure the Orioles or the Ravens into relocating. To retain the teams, our responsibility is to continuously perform timely maintenance and invest in periodic apprades to retain top tier status.

Lastly, remember the Baltimore Colts.

LIM

Chairman Emeritus of the Maryland Stadium Authority

April 8, 2022

William P. Jones 4 Farview Road Baltimore MD 21212 410-206-8326

The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair Budget and Taxation Committee 3 West, Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support - HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards and HB 897 Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

To Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

I am writing this letter to demonstrate my support for HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards and HB 897 Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022. The funds that would be made available would insure that both the Baltimore Ravens and the Baltimore Orioles will remain in Baltimore Maryland for the foreseeable future.

In 1979, I joined the Orioles Designated Hitters (DH) Club, a volunteer organization whose mission was to help the Orioles establish financial stabilization through the sale of season tickets. The success of the DH Club and other factors were instrumental in Edward Bennett William's decision to keep the Orioles in Baltimore. This resulted in the formation of the Maryland Stadium Authority, the signing of a 30 year lease and the subsequent building of Oriole Park at Camden Yards.

Since 1992, by welcoming approximately 85 million visitors, there has been an estimated \$15.9 billion in total spending at the Camden Yards Sports Complex, with \$9.2 billion attributed to the Baltimore Orioles and \$6.7 billion attributed to the Baltimore Ravens. The passing of these bills will further benefit Baltimore City, the Greater Baltimore Region and the State of Maryland. The direct economic benefit will be in the tens of millions of dollars. The indirect benefits will be immeasurable. For the reasons expressed in this letter, I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 896 and HB 897 and am available for any questions that you may have.

Sincerely yours,

William P. Jones

Past President and CEO, The Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore

April 5, 2022

Harold I. Hackerman 3304 Redspire Lane Pikesville, MD 21208 HHack@ellinandtucker.com

The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair Budget and Taxation Committee 3 West, Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support - HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards and HB 897 Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

To Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

As a member of the member Orioles Designated Hitters Club (1979-present) and a member of Ravens Scouts (2019-present), a volunteer ticket sales force with the goal of bolstering the team's ticket sales efforts I support HB0896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards and its companion bill, HB0897 - Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022 that reinvests in the state's sports venues which creates jobs, generates economic benefits, encourages visitation and inspires civic pride.

The iconic Camden Yards Sports Complex resulted from visionary leadership and has been a successful investment and an important year-round entertainment and community asset for the greater Baltimore region. Furthermore, the teams stretch their influence across the state with Baltimore Orioles' minor league affiliates in Harford, Wicomico and Prince George's Counties and with the Baltimore Ravens headquarters and state-of-the-art training facility in Baltimore County. This legislation expands on that vision for the next generation and demonstrates Maryland's firm financial commitment to the Baltimore Orioles and the Baltimore Ravens and their respective leagues.

I look forward to celebrating the 30th anniversary of our beloved ballpark with the passage of HB 896 that affords an investment in the Camden Yards Sports Complex for future generations of Marylanders enjoyment and enrichment. You may reach me at any time with any questions.

Thank you,

Harold I. Hackerman

Member Orioles Designated Hitters Club (1979-present)

Member of Ravens Scouts (2019-present)

al I. Hacken

#### April 5, 2022 Robert J. Cecil

Timonium, MD 21093 Boh, Cecili@hotmail.com

The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair

3 West, Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support - HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorizat Canden Yards and HB 897 Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

To Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

As the retired Director of Sales, Hearst Broadcastina, WiBAL Radio, the lonetime flassible

station of the Orboles and Raconst radio networks, I have firsthand knowledge of the consoniinguest of our professional ports teams in the greater Baltimore region and across the state a am in support of HBH999 - Mary found Stadiem Authority - Increase of Bond Authoritations Cannolor Yanks and in compasion Bill, 1019997 - Sports Transcriboners Pacificies Act of 2022 that it vent in our award-infecting facilities to malarian our professional teams, serve our communifies and create basiness opportunities for years to cuercia.

For 30 years, the Camden Yards Sports Complex has served as a catalyst for economic development for our city and state. Year-round events creates jobs and generates visitor spending with the resulting tax revenues reinvested to fund essential citizen services and improving Manufacture. With our fills.

The positive images of our city and our state during broadcasts of home games and the

to roury passes to the ground of the second second

financial commitment to the teams as they renew their long-term agreements to stay and play Bultimore, Maryland. For the reasons expressed in this letter, I offer my support of HB 896 a HB 897 and an available for any questions that you may have. Thank you,

Robert J. Cocil
Retired Director of Sales, Hearst Broadcasting, WBAL Radio, Orioles Designated Hitters Club

# HB 896\_MDCC\_Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase Uploaded by: Maddy Voytek

Position: FAV



### **LEGISLATIVE POSITION:**

Favorable
House Bill 896
Maryland Stadium Authority – Increase of Bond Authorization – Camden Yards
Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

Friday, April 8, 2022

Dear Chairman Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 5,500 members and federated partners working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic recovery and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

HB 896 would increase the Maryland Stadium Authority's (MSA) bonding authority for sports facilities at Camden Yards Sports Complex. This will help MSA better address the future of Camden Yards as our teams seek to renew their commitment to the State and partner with MSA on long-term improvements.

These renovations will extend the life of the sport stadiums and show the Ravens and Orioles that MSA and the State are committed to providing best in class facilities for safety and fan experience. This will be vital to successful negotiations of agreements with these teams when seeking to keep them in Baltimore.

The Camden Yards Sports Complex is a critical source of revenue and is a valued tourist attraction to the state of Maryland. Businesses near this complex thrive when the stadiums do and benefit heavily from the increased foot traffic they attract. HB 896 is a great example of government policy that promotes and fosters business development.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests a <u>Favorable</u> <u>Report</u> on House Bill 896.

# Letter of Support HB896 and HB897.pdf Uploaded by: Matt Libber

Position: FAV



### **Maryland Soccer Foundation**

18031 Central Park Circle Boyds, MD 20841 T 301.528.1480





April 5, 2022

#### **House Bill 896**

Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards

House Bill 896

Maryland Stadium Authority – Sports and Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

#### **Written Testimony: Support**

Senators Guzzone and Rosapepe and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

My name is Matt Libber, and I am the Executive Director of the Maryland SoccerPlex and Adventist HealthCare Fieldhouse in Montgomery County. I am also currently the Chair of TEAM Maryland, the sports marketing collective of the Destination Marketing Organizations (DMOs) within Maryland, as well as serve on the Board of Directors for the Sports Events and Tourism Association (SportsETA), the trade group for sports tourism organizations. Wearing all three of these hats provides great perspective on the impact that House Bills 896 and 897 would have on the economy of Maryland, and we urge you to support both House Bill 896 and 897, as amended.

Tourism is a major part of the Maryland Economy and affects every part of the State, from the mountains of Garrett County, to the I-95 Corridor, and to the communities on the Eastern Shore and Ocean City. Sports tourism is major component of the tourism industry. In the post-COVID recovery, sport tourism was the first industry to return, which, in turn, touches so many other businesses in the hospitality and retail sectors. Sports travelers, event organizers, and venues spent \$45.1 billion in 2019, which generated \$103.3 billion in business sales when including indirect and induced impacts, according to a 2020 report from Tourism Economics. In Maryland, youth and amateur sports generates over \$225 million in direct spending for our economy. Investments by the State in sports tourism pays itself through the economic impact and development around sports events. For every \$1.00 spent on tourism advertising \$31.00 flows back into the State Economy. The funding for major events in this bill is important for Maryland to stay on top of an extremely competitive market. Cities and states around the United States have seen the importance of sports tourism and the economic benefits that come with these types of events. Providing the Maryland Sports Commission with the resources to attract major events such as the FIFA World Cup, Army - Navy Game, America's Cup racing, and Major League Baseball's All-Star Game sets us apart from other destinations. These marque events themselves turn into promotional assets showcasing Maryland to the rest of the country and the world.

This pair of bills allow Maryland to remain at the forefront of a highly competitive market. Allowing the Stadium Authority to make additional investments in our professional stadiums help showcase the State to the larger sports market. Providing funding for investment in the creation of new sports venue assets, improvements to existing assets, and attracting new events to the State will provide our communities across the State to continue the work they have already done to bring world class sporting events to Maryland.



### **Maryland Soccer Foundation**

18031 Central Park Circle Boyds, MD 20841 T 301.528.1480



www.mdsoccerplex.org

On behalf of the Maryland Soccer Foundation and TEAM Maryland, I ask that you support these two important pieces of legislation. Investments like this provide both short-term and long-term benefits to the State economy. Sports tourism has proven time and again to be one of the strongest sectors of the tourism economy of this State. Sports tourism touches so many sectors of the economy its benefits will be felt throughout the State for years to come. Thank you for your consideration and support for sports tourism in Maryland.

Respectfully,

Matthew Libber

**Executive Director** 

Maryland Soccer Foundation

Maryland SoccerPlex

mlibber@mdsoccerplex.org

301-528-1480 (o)

443-474-3713 (c)

# FAV\_MSA\_HB896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increas Uploaded by: Michael Frenz

Position: FAV



Larry Hogan Governor

Michael J. Frenz Executive Director

Members

Thomas E. Kelso

Leonard J. Attman Joseph C. Bryce Michael Huber Gary L. Mangum Manervia W. Riddick Jodi C. Stanalonis

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

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

### **Maryland Stadium Authority - Letter of Support**

HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards

### **BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE**

The Honorable, Senator, Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator, Jim Rosapepe Vice Chair

Written Testimony, Letter of Support
Thomas Kelso, Chairman, Maryland Stadium Authority
Michael J. Frenz, Executive Director, Maryland Stadium Authority

Good afternoon, Chair Guzzone and Vice Chair Rosapepe and honorable members of the Budget and Taxation Committee, I am Thomas Kelso, the Chairman with Michael J. Frenz, the Executive Director of the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) and we appreciate the opportunity to provide this written Letter of Support for HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase Of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards.

This legislation, HB 896 addresses the future of Camden Yards Sports Complex as the teams seek to renew their strong commitment to the State of Maryland and collaborate with MSA on long-term improvements over time designed to extend the useful lives of the stadiums and increase the economic impact from the stadiums for the State, the City, and the teams.

In order to address the long-term future of the stadiums, this legislation was introduced to increase the debt cap from \$235 million to \$1.2 billion, with \$600 million allocated to each stadium. To service the debt, the amount allocated from lottery proceeds will be capped at \$90 million from the current \$20 million. These improvements are designed to increase the economic impact of the stadiums for the State, the City, and the teams.

The MSA's bonding authority was last increased in 1986, this legislation seeks to modify the amount, and retains all the necessary approvals and oversight required for the MSA's projects for the past 35 years. The amount of lottery funds to be requested each year will be only the amount needed for the outstanding debt service, not the full amount.

MSA continues to work with both the Baltimore Orioles and Baltimore Ravens in order to ensure that the stadiums remain best-in-class facilities in terms of safety and fan experience. The creative approach contained in this legislation allows the MSA to work with each team individually to develop, design and construct improvements that will increase returns for them and for the State and City. The MSA believes that our ability to work continuously with each team simultaneously to invest in the stadiums is a critical element to the successful negotiation of agreements that will retain them in Baltimore.

The Camden Yards Sports Complex was the result of visionary leadership and has been a successful investment for the City of Baltimore and the State of Maryland and an important year-round community asset. With this legislation, the State of Maryland, through the MSA, will further that vision for the next generation and expand the exemplary economic development partnerships with both professional teams.

As stadium and fan experience trends evolve, this legislation creates an evergreen and flexible fund for both innovative revenue-generating improvements that align with the teams' long-term needs and all of the necessary infrastructure investments required to keep our stadiums competitive. The success of this proposed legislation, and the continuing investments it affords will help ensure the longevity and prosperity of the Camden Yards Sports Complex long into the future.

Since 1992, there has been approximately \$15.9 billion in total spending at the Camden Yards Sports Complex, with \$9.2 billion attributed to the Baltimore Orioles and \$6.7 billion attributed to the Baltimore Ravens. Based on tax revenues of a \$1 billion, less \$670 million in debt service in bonds issued to build the Camden Yards Sports Complex, the State of Maryland has earned a \$330 million return on its investment.

Since 1992	Orioles	Ravens
Approximately 85 million visitors	70 million	15 million
Approximately \$15.9 billion in total spending	\$9.2 billion	\$6.7 billion
Approximately 4,000 jobs each year	2,400	1,600
Approximately \$8.3 billion in employee earnings	\$4.8 billion	\$3.5 billion
Approximately \$1.0 billion in state revenues	\$0.6 billion	\$0.4 billion
Approximately \$670 million in debt service	\$0.45 billion Oriole Park at Camden Yards	\$0.22 billion M&T Bank Stadium

In closing, this legislation demonstrates, through the MSA, Maryland's firm financial commitment to the Baltimore Orioles and the Baltimore Ravens and their respective leagues to remain in our State at the Camden Yards Sports Complex for many years to come. For the reasons expressed in this letter, we request a favorable report on HB 896.



Office of Government Relations 88 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**HB 896** 

April 8, 2022

**TO:** Members of the Senate Budget and Tax Committee

**FROM:** Natasha Mehu, Director, Office of Government Relations

**RE:** House Bill 896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization -

Camden Yards

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 896.

HB 896 would increase the caps on debt issuance and debt service amounts for the Camden Yards Sports Complex, which includes Oriole Park at Camden Yards and M&T Bank Stadium, to enable necessary investments in and redevelopment of the site. The Camden Yards Sports Complex is an important source of entertainment, jobs, tourism, and associated revenue for not only Baltimore City but the State of Maryland. Ensuring the complex can be not only renovated but reimagined for the continued enjoyment of our residents is important to the Scott Administration.

Year-round events at the Camden Yards Sports Complex create jobs and generate sports, leisure, and business visitor spending with the resulting tax revenues reinvested to fund essential citizen services and improve Marylander's quality of life. Positive images of our City during broadcasts of home games communicate to viewers that Maryland is open for both business and leisure.

The complex provides significant value to all Marylanders. In addition to MLB and NLF games, facilities are also used year-round for major motion picture and television locations, international soccer matches, college sports, concerts, V.I.P. visits, cultural festivals plus corporate events, non-profit fundraisers, graduations, proms, weddings, and family functions. In the event of severe weather events, the Camden Yards Sports Complex houses emergency crews, their



The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair Budget and Taxation Committee 3 West Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB0896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to enthusiastically submit support HB896 on behalf of the Downtown Partnership of Baltimore (DPOB) and its Board of Directors. The Business Community created DPOB in 1983 to foster a clean, safe, and welcoming environment for residents, businesses, and tourists. DPOB is represented by more than ninety-one prominent businesses and community stakeholders on its board and 650 members.

While Downtown has its challenges, our momentum over the past 18 months is trending in the right direction and essential to the economic vitality of the City. The Administration's commitment to relocating the state agencies to the core of Downtown was a much-needed catalyst. Results of an economic impact study on the traditional core by economic development expert, Richard Clinch, PhD, highlighted Downtown as the economic driver of the city, while also noting the need to update infrastructure and increase amenities to support the anticipated growth.

The development of the Camden Yards Sports Complex was visionary and inspired a generation of urban revitalization across the nation. With its national prominence, the complex welcomes sports and entertainment experiences that help make Baltimore a destination of choice. As a result, Downtown receives incredible economic benefits with impact beyond the field and into nearby restaurants, hotels, and office suites. The stadiums provide access to amenities that residents, visitors, and businesses want while injecting vitality into our urban core. This is no time, given our history, to take our two stadiums for granted. We must go forward with vision as we did 30 years ago!

The Downtown Partnership of Baltimore staff and board understand the value of HB0896, which increases the caps on debt issuance and debt service amounts for the Camden Yards Sports Complex. Passage of this legislation will incentivize the Orioles and Ravens to renew their commitments to the State of Maryland and provide resources to increase the already significant economic impacts of the stadiums. This legislation demonstrates Maryland's financial commitment to the teams and their leagues for them to remain in the State for years to come. And this legislation also highlights the State's commitment to investing in the City of Baltimore and all of us who call home, work, or a great place to visit.

If you have any questions or require anything additional, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Shelonda Stokes

Shelonda Stakes

President

Downtown Partnership of Baltimore

vehicles, and equipment, plus the Maryland National Guard for any humanitarian relief as necessary. During the especially challenging times of the pandemic, the Camden Yards Sports Complex was transformed into a food relief hub, voting center, testing, and mass vaccination site, serving Marylanders in their greatest time of need.

The time is now to holistically redevelop Camden as the MSA, the Baltimore Orioles, and the Baltimore Ravens reimagining the Camden Yards Sports Complex as the teams seek to renew their strong commitment to the State of Maryland. These stakeholders function as economic development partners with the shared goal of funding facility infrastructure and fan-friendly improvements, while creating a business environment for continued success.

The iconic Camden Yards Sports Complex resulted from visionary leadership and has been a successful investment and an important year-round entertainment and community asset for Maryland. This legislation expands on that vision for the next generation and demonstrates Maryland's firm financial commitment to the Baltimore Orioles and the Baltimore Ravens and their respective leagues. We hope this legislation can ensure that the Camden Yards Sports Complex remains a top destination for future generations of Marylanders' enjoyment and enrichment.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 896.



April 5, 2022

The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB0896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards
HB0987 - Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

Dear Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore (EAGB), I am writing to register our strong support for HB0896. The legislation will increase the cap on debt issuance and debt service from the current limit of \$235M to \$1.2B to be used to improve and enhance the facilities within the Camden Yards Sports Complex. By providing the resources needed for Oriole Park and M&T Stadium to remain competitive top-of-class homes for the Orioles and the Ravens, the State of Maryland will demonstrate their commitment to keeping the teams in Baltimore for years to come.

EAGB is a regional business organization dedicated to marketing the economic assets of the Greater Baltimore region, elevating the Region to a location of choice for employment, investment, and business location. We work in collaboration with our board members and other stakeholders to help catalyze economic opportunities and create pathways that enable residents throughout the region to be able to take advantage of these opportunities.

EAGB's member jurisdictions – Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Howard, Cecil, Carroll, Harford and Baltimore Counties – collaborate on programs and activities that celebrate the strengths of the entire Region, recognizing that the assets of one jurisdiction benefit the others and that Baltimore City is the heart of the Region. A vibrant Camden Yards as the home of two



major league teams is a major asset for the entire Region and a critical element of the City's economic health and vitality.

The Camden Yards Sports Complex was a game changer for stadium development as a catalyst for urban revitalization across the country. More importantly, for over three decades Camden Yards has been a catalyst for economic development resulting in significant economic benefits for Baltimore City, the Greater Baltimore region and the State. This legislation, once passed, will continue this tradition of visionary and future-focused leadership

We also urge approval of HB0897, as amended. Authorizing the Maryland Stadium Authority to issue bonds to assist in advancing the sports and sports entertainment industries throughout the State by financing the acquisition, design and construction of facilities needed for these industries to grow will bring significant direct and indirect economic benefits to the Greater Baltimore region and the entire State.

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and members of the Committee, we urge you to approve HB0896 and HB897. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Respectfully,

Michele Whelley President & CEO

CC: EAGB Board of Directors

List Attached



# **2022 EAGB BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **OFFICERS**

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Baltimore Gas & Electric Company, an Exelon Company: Carim Khouzami, Chief Executive Officer

Bank of America: Janet Currie, Greater Maryland Market President

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Evergreen Advisors: Rick Kohr, Chief Executive Officer

Johns Hopkins University: Christy Wyskiel, Senior Advisor to the President

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Catalyte: Jacob Hsu, CEO

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Exelon: Calvin Butler, Senior Executive Vice President & COO

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Howard Community College: Dr. Daria Willis, President

Harford County Government: Barry Glassman, County Executive

Howard County Economic & Development Authority: Lawrence Twele, CEO (Chair, Advisory Committee)

Howard County Government: Calvin Ball, County Executive The Howard Hughes Corporation: Greg Fitchitt, President

LifeBridge Health, Neil Meltzer, President & CEO

Loyola University of Maryland: John Coppola, VP - Finance and Administration/Treasurer

1200 Steuart Street, Unit C1B, Baltimore, MD 21230



Maryland Department of Commerce: Mike Gill, Secretary

Miles & Stockbridge: Nancy Greene, Chair

Morgan Stanley: John DeLong, Managing Director

Morgan State University: Dr. David Kwabena Wilson, President

NetCraftsmen: Paul Mauritz, President & CEO

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RSM: Art Yonowitz, Partner – Tax Services

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Verizon Communications: Eric Reed, Vice President – Public Policy & Local Engagement

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## **NON-VOTING DIRECTORS**

Cybersecurity Association of Maryland: Chris Sachse, CEO, Think | Stack

Cybersecurity Association of Maryland: Shelley Lombardo, COO, Evergreen Advisors

Maryland Tech Council: Todd Marks (Chair of MTC), President & CEO - Mindgrub

Regional Manufacturing Institute: Michael Galiazzo, President

U.S. House of Representatives: Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger - <u>Director Emeritus</u>



400 E PRATT ST, 10TH FLOOR BALTIMORE, MD 21202

BALTIMORE.ORG

### **HB896**

April 7, 2022

TO: Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

FROM: Al Hutchinson, President & CEO, Visit Baltimore

RE: HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization Camden Yards

POSITION: SUPPORT

Honorable Chair Guzzone, and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

Visit Baltimore **supports HB896** Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization Camden Yards.

Visit Baltimore, the official destination marketing organization of Baltimore, supports the reinvestment in the Camden Yards Sports Complex that creates jobs and generates economic benefits to our city from business and leisure travelers throughout the year.

The iconic Camden Yards Sports Complex in Baltimore, which includes Oriole Park and M&T Bank Stadium, is one of the most recognizable landmarks and attractions in Maryland. Positive media impressions during game day telecasts, especially during All Star and play-off games elevates Baltimore as a destination, inspires civic pride and encourages visitation by sports fans and conference guests.

Since 1992, approximately 80 million visitors have contributed to an estimated \$15.9 billion in total spending at the Camden Yards Sports Complex, with \$9.2 billion attributed to the Baltimore Orioles and \$6.7 billion attributed to the Baltimore Ravens.

Visit Baltimore supports this legislation that expands on the visionary leadership that created the Camden Yards Sports Complex.

Submitted respectfully,

Al Hutchinson President & CEO



#### **SUPPORT**

### HB896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards HB897 - Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

April 6, 2022

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe & Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

As the sole statewide trade association dedicated to advocacy for Maryland's lodging industry, with more than 700 hotels totaling 75,000+ rooms, we support HB896 and HB897.

In order to address the long-term future of the stadiums, HB896 was introduced to increase the debt cap from \$235 million to \$1.2 billion, with \$600 million allocated to each stadium. To service the debt, the amount allocated from lottery proceeds will be capped at \$90 million from the current \$20 million. These improvements are designed to increase the economic impact of the stadiums for the State, the City, and the teams.

Companion legislation, HB897, was also introduced to create a \$200 million fund to promote the development of sports entertainment facilities across the state, including minor league stadiums where renovations will be necessary to maintain affiliations with major league teams. These minor league teams provide economic benefits to communities and promote synergies between the Orioles and their Maryland-based affiliates.

HB 896 and HB 897 would elevate the state as a sports tourism destination. Camden Yards Sports Complex is a valuable year-round community asset that helps to generate hotel stays and support jobs in Baltimore City and the surrounding areas. The minor league ballparks located in Aberdeen, Bowie, Frederick, Hagerstown, Salisbury and Waldorf do the same in those six local communities.

It is the desire of our members for these stadiums to remain competitive as best-in-class facilities to keep baseball teams and fans here in Maryland. Hotel guests spend \$5B annually throughout the state and hotels generate \$602M in state and local tax. Our industry provides great economic benefit to local communities when hotels are full. In fact, every 10 occupied rooms per night supports nearly 25 local jobs.

For the reasons expressed in this letter, we request a favorable report on HB H96 & HB 897.

Respectfully submitted, Amy Rohrer, CAE President & CEO



April 8, 2022
The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

HB896 - MARYLAND STADIUM AUTHORITY - INCREASE OF BOND AUTHORIZATION - CAMDEN YARDS

Dear Senator Guy Guzzone and Senator Rosapepe,

My name is Kristin Hanna and I am the legislative chair for the Maryland Tourism Coalition as well as the Senior Director of Marketing for Flying Dog Brewery. I am writing on behalf of Maryland Tourism Coalition today - an organization that represents tourism and hospitality businesses in Maryland. As we continue to battle the effects to COVID-19, we recognize that any support for Camden Yards will be a huge benefit to our entire eco-system. We urge you all to support increasing the debt cap listed in HB 896.

In order to address the long-term future of the stadiums, legislation was introduced to increase the debt cap from \$235 million to \$1.2 billion, with \$600 million allocated to each stadium. To service the debt, the amount allocated from lottery proceeds will be capped at \$90 million from the current \$20 million. These improvements are designed to increase the economic impact of the stadiums for the State, the City, and the teams.

Year-round events at the Camden Yards Sports Complex create jobs and generate sports, leisure and business visitor spending with the resulting tax revenues reinvested to fund essential citizen services and improve Marylander's quality of life. Positive images of our State during broadcasts of home games communicate to viewers that Maryland is 'Open for Business'.

In addition to MLB and NLF games, usage of the facilities for major motion picture and television locations, international soccer matches, college sports, concerts, V.I.P. visits, cultural festivals plus corporate events, non-profit fundraisers, graduations, proms, weddings, and family functions, further contribute to the value of the Camden Yards Sports Complex for Marylanders throughout the year.

As we compete with surrounding states to attract visitors, investing in our assets is critical. We know the resiliency of this amazing community and we look forward to your support moving forward.

Sincerely,

Kristin Hanna

Kristin Hanna
MTC Legislative Chair
Flying Dog Senior Director of Marketing
<a href="mailto:kristin.hanna@flyingdog.com">kristin.hanna@flyingdog.com</a>
480-710-2920

## JOHN MORTON, III POST OFFICE BOX 9765 ARNOLD, MARYLAND 21012

April 5, 2022

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

Re: Letter of Support - HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards To Chair Guzzone and the Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

I am John Morton III, Chairman Emeritus of the Maryland Stadium Authority, and offer my support of HB0896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards that further elevates Maryland as sports destination by investing in our award-winning facilities to maintain our professional teams and create business opportunities across the state for years to come.

The Camden Yards Sports Complex was a game changer for stadium construction, inspiring a generation of urban revitalization across the nation and serving as a catalyst for economic development for our city and state. Year-round events at the Camden Yards Sports Complex creates jobs and generates visitor spending with the resulting tax revenues reinvested to fund essential citizen services and improving Marylander's quality of life. Since 1992, by welcoming over 80 million visitors, there has been an estimated \$15.9 billion in total visitor spending at the Camden Yards Sports Complex, with \$9.2 billion attributed to the Baltimore Orioles and \$6.7 billion attributed to the Baltimore Ravens.

HB 896 before you today addresses the future of Camden Yards Sports Complex as the Orioles and the Ravens seek to renew their strong commitment to the State of Maryland and collaborate with MSA on long-term improvements over time designed to increase the economic impact of the stadiums for the state, the city, and the teams. This legislation demonstrates, through the MSA, Maryland's firm financial commitment to the Orioles and the Ravens and their respective leagues to stay and play in Maryland.

In closing, Maryland is blessed with two of the finest stadiums in Major League Baseball and the National Football League. It would be a tragedy for the State to see either one of these stadiums sit empty and without the Orioles or the Ravens. There would be a devastating economic impact on the State and the City and all Marylanders would experience immeasurable loss in the quality of life.

Maryland should not take for granted that our teams will always be with us in Baltimore or the State. Both teams have private ownership and many cities would provide significant incentives to lure the Orioles or the Ravens into relocating. To retain the teams, our responsibility is to continuously perform timely maintenance and invest in periodic apprades to retain top tier status.

Lastly, remember the Baltimore Colts.

Chairman Emeritus of the Maryland Stadium Authority

April 8, 2022

William P. Jones 4 Farview Road Baltimore MD 21212 410-206-8326

The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair Budget and Taxation Committee 3 West, Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support - HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards and HB 897 Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

To Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

I am writing this letter to demonstrate my support for HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards and HB 897 Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022. The funds that would be made available would insure that both the Baltimore Ravens and the Baltimore Orioles will remain in Baltimore Maryland for the foreseeable future.

In 1979, I joined the Orioles Designated Hitters (DH) Club, a volunteer organization whose mission was to help the Orioles establish financial stabilization through the sale of season tickets. The success of the DH Club and other factors were instrumental in Edward Bennett William's decision to keep the Orioles in Baltimore. This resulted in the formation of the Maryland Stadium Authority, the signing of a 30 year lease and the subsequent building of Oriole Park at Camden Yards.

Since 1992, by welcoming approximately 85 million visitors, there has been an estimated \$15.9 billion in total spending at the Camden Yards Sports Complex, with \$9.2 billion attributed to the Baltimore Orioles and \$6.7 billion attributed to the Baltimore Ravens. The passing of these bills will further benefit Baltimore City, the Greater Baltimore Region and the State of Maryland. The direct economic benefit will be in the tens of millions of dollars. The indirect benefits will be immeasurable. For the reasons expressed in this letter, I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 896 and HB 897 and am available for any questions that you may have.

Sincerely yours,

William P. Jones

Past President and CEO, The Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore

April 5, 2022

Harold I. Hackerman 3304 Redspire Lane Pikesville, MD 21208 HHack@ellinandtucker.com

The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair Budget and Taxation Committee 3 West, Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support - HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards and HB 897 Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

To Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

As a member of the member Orioles Designated Hitters Club (1979-present) and a member of Ravens Scouts (2019-present), a volunteer ticket sales force with the goal of bolstering the team's ticket sales efforts I support HB0896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards and its companion bill, HB0897 - Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022 that reinvests in the state's sports venues which creates jobs, generates economic benefits, encourages visitation and inspires civic pride.

The iconic Camden Yards Sports Complex resulted from visionary leadership and has been a successful investment and an important year-round entertainment and community asset for the greater Baltimore region. Furthermore, the teams stretch their influence across the state with Baltimore Orioles' minor league affiliates in Harford, Wicomico and Prince George's Counties and with the Baltimore Ravens headquarters and state-of-the-art training facility in Baltimore County. This legislation expands on that vision for the next generation and demonstrates Maryland's firm financial commitment to the Baltimore Orioles and the Baltimore Ravens and their respective leagues.

I look forward to celebrating the 30th anniversary of our beloved ballpark with the passage of HB 896 that affords an investment in the Camden Yards Sports Complex for future generations of Marylanders enjoyment and enrichment. You may reach me at any time with any questions.

Thank you,

Harold I. Hackerman

Member Orioles Designated Hitters Club (1979-present)

Member of Ravens Scouts (2019-present)

al I. Hacken

#### Robert J. Cecil

Timonium, MD 21093 Bob.Cecili@hotmail.com

The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair

3 West, Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support - HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorizat Camden Yards and HB 897 Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

To Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation

As the referred Director of Safes, Hannel Broudcastrating, WHAE, Radio, the longitime flagships station of the Oriolas and Resource also networks, I bave findance knowledge of the coninguaci of our professional sports teams in the greater Bultimore region and across the sisten of the contract of the Consults relates and in compassion SIL HIMPORT - Sports Darenthourset Facilities of the Contraction of the Consultance of the Contract of the Contract of the Contraction of the Contract of the Contract of the Contract of the Contract of the first of the Contract of the Contract of the Contract of the Contract of the first of the Contract of the

For 10 years, the Camden Yards Sports Complex has served as a catalyst for economic development for our city and state. Year-round events creates jobs and generates visitor spending with the resulting tax revenues reinvested to fund essential citizen services and improving.

The positive images of our city and our state during broadcasts of home games and the

In closing, HIB 896 demonstrates, through the Maryland Stadium Authority, the State's flem financial commitment to the teams as they renew their long-term agreements to stay and play in Baltimore, Maryland. For the reasons expressed in this letter, I offer my support of HB 896 and

transcus continuments to me teams as they renew team song-errar agreements to may and pay Bullitimore, May faind. For the reasons expressed in his letter, I effer my support of HB 896 a HB 897 and am available for any questions that you may have.

Thank you,

Retired Director of Sales, Hearst Broadcasting, WBAL Radio, Orioles Designated Hitters Club

# **HB0896-BT-FAV.pdf**Uploaded by: Natasha Mehu Position: FAV



Office of Government Relations 88 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**HB 896** 

April 8, 2022

**TO:** Members of the Senate Budget and Tax Committee

**FROM:** Natasha Mehu, Director, Office of Government Relations

**RE:** House Bill 896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization -

Camden Yards

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 896.

HB 896 would increase the caps on debt issuance and debt service amounts for the Camden Yards Sports Complex, which includes Oriole Park at Camden Yards and M&T Bank Stadium, to enable necessary investments in and redevelopment of the site. The Camden Yards Sports Complex is an important source of entertainment, jobs, tourism, and associated revenue for not only Baltimore City but the State of Maryland. Ensuring the complex can be not only renovated but reimagined for the continued enjoyment of our residents is important to the Scott Administration.

Year-round events at the Camden Yards Sports Complex create jobs and generate sports, leisure, and business visitor spending with the resulting tax revenues reinvested to fund essential citizen services and improve Marylander's quality of life. Positive images of our City during broadcasts of home games communicate to viewers that Maryland is open for both business and leisure.

The complex provides significant value to all Marylanders. In addition to MLB and NLF games, facilities are also used year-round for major motion picture and television locations, international soccer matches, college sports, concerts, V.I.P. visits, cultural festivals plus corporate events, non-profit fundraisers, graduations, proms, weddings, and family functions. In the event of severe weather events, the Camden Yards Sports Complex houses emergency crews, their

vehicles, and equipment, plus the Maryland National Guard for any humanitarian relief as necessary. During the especially challenging times of the pandemic, the Camden Yards Sports Complex was transformed into a food relief hub, voting center, testing, and mass vaccination site, serving Marylanders in their greatest time of need.

The time is now to holistically redevelop Camden as the MSA, the Baltimore Orioles, and the Baltimore Ravens reimagining the Camden Yards Sports Complex as the teams seek to renew their strong commitment to the State of Maryland. These stakeholders function as economic development partners with the shared goal of funding facility infrastructure and fan-friendly improvements, while creating a business environment for continued success.

The iconic Camden Yards Sports Complex resulted from visionary leadership and has been a successful investment and an important year-round entertainment and community asset for Maryland. This legislation expands on that vision for the next generation and demonstrates Maryland's firm financial commitment to the Baltimore Orioles and the Baltimore Ravens and their respective leagues. We hope this legislation can ensure that the Camden Yards Sports Complex remains a top destination for future generations of Marylanders' enjoyment and enrichment.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 896.

## FAV\_MSA\_HB896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increas Uploaded by: Terrance Hasseltine

Position: FAV



Larry Hogan *Governor* 

Michael J. Frenz Executive Director

Members

Thomas E. Kelso

Leonard J. Attman Joseph C. Bryce Michael Huber Gary L. Mangum Manervia W. Riddick Jodi C. Stanalonis

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

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

## **Maryland Stadium Authority - Letter of Support**

HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards

#### **BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE**

The Honorable, Senator, Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator, Jim Rosapepe Vice Chair

Written Testimony, Letter of Support
Thomas Kelso, Chairman, Maryland Stadium Authority
Michael J. Frenz, Executive Director, Maryland Stadium Authority

Good afternoon, Chair Guzzone and Vice Chair Rosapepe and honorable members of the Budget and Taxation Committee, I am Thomas Kelso, the Chairman with Michael J. Frenz, the Executive Director of the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) and we appreciate the opportunity to provide this written Letter of Support for HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase Of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards.

This legislation, HB 896 addresses the future of Camden Yards Sports Complex as the teams seek to renew their strong commitment to the State of Maryland and collaborate with MSA on long-term improvements over time designed to extend the useful lives of the stadiums and increase the economic impact from the stadiums for the State, the City, and the teams.

In order to address the long-term future of the stadiums, this legislation was introduced to increase the debt cap from \$235 million to \$1.2 billion, with \$600 million allocated to each stadium. To service the debt, the amount allocated from lottery proceeds will be capped at \$90 million from the current \$20 million. These improvements are designed to increase the economic impact of the stadiums for the State, the City, and the teams.

The MSA's bonding authority was last increased in 1986, this legislation seeks to modify the amount, and retains all the necessary approvals and oversight required for the MSA's projects for the past 35 years. The amount of lottery funds to be requested each year will be only the amount needed for the outstanding debt service, not the full amount.

MSA continues to work with both the Baltimore Orioles and Baltimore Ravens in order to ensure that the stadiums remain best-in-class facilities in terms of safety and fan experience. The creative approach contained in this legislation allows the MSA to work with each team individually to develop, design and construct improvements that will increase returns for them and for the State and City. The MSA believes that our ability to work continuously with each team simultaneously to invest in the stadiums is a critical element to the successful negotiation of agreements that will retain them in Baltimore.

The Camden Yards Sports Complex was the result of visionary leadership and has been a successful investment for the City of Baltimore and the State of Maryland and an important year-round community asset. With this legislation, the State of Maryland, through the MSA, will further that vision for the next generation and expand the exemplary economic development partnerships with both professional teams.

As stadium and fan experience trends evolve, this legislation creates an evergreen and flexible fund for both innovative revenue-generating improvements that align with the teams' long-term needs and all of the necessary infrastructure investments required to keep our stadiums competitive. The success of this proposed legislation, and the continuing investments it affords will help ensure the longevity and prosperity of the Camden Yards Sports Complex long into the future.

Since 1992, there has been approximately \$15.9 billion in total spending at the Camden Yards Sports Complex, with \$9.2 billion attributed to the Baltimore Orioles and \$6.7 billion attributed to the Baltimore Ravens. Based on tax revenues of a \$1 billion, less \$670 million in debt service in bonds issued to build the Camden Yards Sports Complex, the State of Maryland has earned a \$330 million return on its investment.

Since 1992	Orioles	Ravens
Approximately 85 million visitors	70 million	15 million
Approximately \$15.9 billion in total spending	\$9.2 billion	\$6.7 billion
Approximately 4,000 jobs each year	2,400	1,600
Approximately \$8.3 billion in employee earnings	\$4.8 billion	\$3.5 billion
Approximately \$1.0 billion in state revenues	\$0.6 billion	\$0.4 billion
Approximately \$670 million in debt service	\$0.45 billion Oriole Park at Camden Yards	\$0.22 billion M&T Bank Stadium

In closing, this legislation demonstrates, through the MSA, Maryland's firm financial commitment to the Baltimore Orioles and the Baltimore Ravens and their respective leagues to remain in our State at the Camden Yards Sports Complex for many years to come. For the reasons expressed in this letter, we request a favorable report on HB 896.



Office of Government Relations 88 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**HB 896** 

April 8, 2022

**TO:** Members of the Senate Budget and Tax Committee

**FROM:** Natasha Mehu, Director, Office of Government Relations

**RE:** House Bill 896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization -

Camden Yards

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 896.

HB 896 would increase the caps on debt issuance and debt service amounts for the Camden Yards Sports Complex, which includes Oriole Park at Camden Yards and M&T Bank Stadium, to enable necessary investments in and redevelopment of the site. The Camden Yards Sports Complex is an important source of entertainment, jobs, tourism, and associated revenue for not only Baltimore City but the State of Maryland. Ensuring the complex can be not only renovated but reimagined for the continued enjoyment of our residents is important to the Scott Administration.

Year-round events at the Camden Yards Sports Complex create jobs and generate sports, leisure, and business visitor spending with the resulting tax revenues reinvested to fund essential citizen services and improve Marylander's quality of life. Positive images of our City during broadcasts of home games communicate to viewers that Maryland is open for both business and leisure.

The complex provides significant value to all Marylanders. In addition to MLB and NLF games, facilities are also used year-round for major motion picture and television locations, international soccer matches, college sports, concerts, V.I.P. visits, cultural festivals plus corporate events, non-profit fundraisers, graduations, proms, weddings, and family functions. In the event of severe weather events, the Camden Yards Sports Complex houses emergency crews, their



The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair Budget and Taxation Committee 3 West Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB0896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to enthusiastically submit support HB896 on behalf of the Downtown Partnership of Baltimore (DPOB) and its Board of Directors. The Business Community created DPOB in 1983 to foster a clean, safe, and welcoming environment for residents, businesses, and tourists. DPOB is represented by more than ninety-one prominent businesses and community stakeholders on its board and 650 members.

While Downtown has its challenges, our momentum over the past 18 months is trending in the right direction and essential to the economic vitality of the City. The Administration's commitment to relocating the state agencies to the core of Downtown was a much-needed catalyst. Results of an economic impact study on the traditional core by economic development expert, Richard Clinch, PhD, highlighted Downtown as the economic driver of the city, while also noting the need to update infrastructure and increase amenities to support the anticipated growth.

The development of the Camden Yards Sports Complex was visionary and inspired a generation of urban revitalization across the nation. With its national prominence, the complex welcomes sports and entertainment experiences that help make Baltimore a destination of choice. As a result, Downtown receives incredible economic benefits with impact beyond the field and into nearby restaurants, hotels, and office suites. The stadiums provide access to amenities that residents, visitors, and businesses want while injecting vitality into our urban core. This is no time, given our history, to take our two stadiums for granted. We must go forward with vision as we did 30 years ago!

The Downtown Partnership of Baltimore staff and board understand the value of HB0896, which increases the caps on debt issuance and debt service amounts for the Camden Yards Sports Complex. Passage of this legislation will incentivize the Orioles and Ravens to renew their commitments to the State of Maryland and provide resources to increase the already significant economic impacts of the stadiums. This legislation demonstrates Maryland's financial commitment to the teams and their leagues for them to remain in the State for years to come. And this legislation also highlights the State's commitment to investing in the City of Baltimore and all of us who call home, work, or a great place to visit.

If you have any questions or require anything additional, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Shelonda Stokes

Shelonda Stakes

President

Downtown Partnership of Baltimore

vehicles, and equipment, plus the Maryland National Guard for any humanitarian relief as necessary. During the especially challenging times of the pandemic, the Camden Yards Sports Complex was transformed into a food relief hub, voting center, testing, and mass vaccination site, serving Marylanders in their greatest time of need.

The time is now to holistically redevelop Camden as the MSA, the Baltimore Orioles, and the Baltimore Ravens reimagining the Camden Yards Sports Complex as the teams seek to renew their strong commitment to the State of Maryland. These stakeholders function as economic development partners with the shared goal of funding facility infrastructure and fan-friendly improvements, while creating a business environment for continued success.

The iconic Camden Yards Sports Complex resulted from visionary leadership and has been a successful investment and an important year-round entertainment and community asset for Maryland. This legislation expands on that vision for the next generation and demonstrates Maryland's firm financial commitment to the Baltimore Orioles and the Baltimore Ravens and their respective leagues. We hope this legislation can ensure that the Camden Yards Sports Complex remains a top destination for future generations of Marylanders' enjoyment and enrichment.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 896.



April 5, 2022

The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB0896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards
HB0987 - Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

Dear Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore (EAGB), I am writing to register our strong support for HB0896. The legislation will increase the cap on debt issuance and debt service from the current limit of \$235M to \$1.2B to be used to improve and enhance the facilities within the Camden Yards Sports Complex. By providing the resources needed for Oriole Park and M&T Stadium to remain competitive top-of-class homes for the Orioles and the Ravens, the State of Maryland will demonstrate their commitment to keeping the teams in Baltimore for years to come.

EAGB is a regional business organization dedicated to marketing the economic assets of the Greater Baltimore region, elevating the Region to a location of choice for employment, investment, and business location. We work in collaboration with our board members and other stakeholders to help catalyze economic opportunities and create pathways that enable residents throughout the region to be able to take advantage of these opportunities.

EAGB's member jurisdictions – Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Howard, Cecil, Carroll, Harford and Baltimore Counties – collaborate on programs and activities that celebrate the strengths of the entire Region, recognizing that the assets of one jurisdiction benefit the others and that Baltimore City is the heart of the Region. A vibrant Camden Yards as the home of two



major league teams is a major asset for the entire Region and a critical element of the City's economic health and vitality.

The Camden Yards Sports Complex was a game changer for stadium development as a catalyst for urban revitalization across the country. More importantly, for over three decades Camden Yards has been a catalyst for economic development resulting in significant economic benefits for Baltimore City, the Greater Baltimore region and the State. This legislation, once passed, will continue this tradition of visionary and future-focused leadership

We also urge approval of HB0897, as amended. Authorizing the Maryland Stadium Authority to issue bonds to assist in advancing the sports and sports entertainment industries throughout the State by financing the acquisition, design and construction of facilities needed for these industries to grow will bring significant direct and indirect economic benefits to the Greater Baltimore region and the entire State.

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and members of the Committee, we urge you to approve HB0896 and HB897. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Respectfully,

Michele Whelley President & CEO

CC: EAGB Board of Directors

List Attached



## **2022 EAGB BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **OFFICERS**

CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield: Brian Pieninck, President & CEO – Chair of the Board Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore: Michele Whelley – President & CEO Ellin & Tucker, Chartered: Edwin R. Brake, Managing Director & CEO – Treasurer Whiteford Taylor Preston LLP: Martin T. Fletcher, Managing Partner – Secretary of Counsel

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Exelon: Calvin Butler, Senior Executive Vice President & COO

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Harford County Government: Barry Glassman, County Executive

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Howard County Government: Calvin Ball, County Executive The Howard Hughes Corporation: Greg Fitchitt, President

LifeBridge Health, Neil Meltzer, President & CEO

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1200 Steuart Street, Unit C1B, Baltimore, MD 21230



Maryland Department of Commerce: Mike Gill, Secretary

Miles & Stockbridge: Nancy Greene, Chair

Morgan Stanley: John DeLong, Managing Director

Morgan State University: Dr. David Kwabena Wilson, President

NetCraftsmen: Paul Mauritz, President & CEO

PNC Bank: George von Zedlitz, SVP – Marketing Managing Director

RSM: Art Yonowitz, Partner – Tax Services

St. John Properties: Andrew Roud, Regional Partner

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Truist: Gregory Farno, President – Maryland Region UMBC Training Centers: Jon Lau, President & CTO

University System of Maryland: Dr. Jay Perman, Chancellor

Verizon Communications: Eric Reed, Vice President – Public Policy & Local Engagement

Wells Fargo: Derek Lynch, Senior Vice President, Commercial Banking Leader

## **NON-VOTING DIRECTORS**

Cybersecurity Association of Maryland: Chris Sachse, CEO, Think | Stack

Cybersecurity Association of Maryland: Shelley Lombardo, COO, Evergreen Advisors

Maryland Tech Council: Todd Marks (Chair of MTC), President & CEO - Mindgrub

Regional Manufacturing Institute: Michael Galiazzo, President

U.S. House of Representatives: Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger - <u>Director Emeritus</u>



400 E PRATT ST, 10TH FLOOR BALTIMORE, MD 21202

BALTIMORE.ORG

#### **HB896**

April 7, 2022

TO: Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

FROM: Al Hutchinson, President & CEO, Visit Baltimore

RE: HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization Camden Yards

POSITION: SUPPORT

Honorable Chair Guzzone, and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

Visit Baltimore **supports HB896** Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization Camden Yards.

Visit Baltimore, the official destination marketing organization of Baltimore, supports the reinvestment in the Camden Yards Sports Complex that creates jobs and generates economic benefits to our city from business and leisure travelers throughout the year.

The iconic Camden Yards Sports Complex in Baltimore, which includes Oriole Park and M&T Bank Stadium, is one of the most recognizable landmarks and attractions in Maryland. Positive media impressions during game day telecasts, especially during All Star and play-off games elevates Baltimore as a destination, inspires civic pride and encourages visitation by sports fans and conference guests.

Since 1992, approximately 80 million visitors have contributed to an estimated \$15.9 billion in total spending at the Camden Yards Sports Complex, with \$9.2 billion attributed to the Baltimore Orioles and \$6.7 billion attributed to the Baltimore Ravens.

Visit Baltimore supports this legislation that expands on the visionary leadership that created the Camden Yards Sports Complex.

Submitted respectfully,

Al Hutchinson President & CEO



#### **SUPPORT**

### HB896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards HB897 - Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

April 6, 2022

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe & Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

As the sole statewide trade association dedicated to advocacy for Maryland's lodging industry, with more than 700 hotels totaling 75,000+ rooms, we support HB896 and HB897.

In order to address the long-term future of the stadiums, HB896 was introduced to increase the debt cap from \$235 million to \$1.2 billion, with \$600 million allocated to each stadium. To service the debt, the amount allocated from lottery proceeds will be capped at \$90 million from the current \$20 million. These improvements are designed to increase the economic impact of the stadiums for the State, the City, and the teams.

Companion legislation, HB897, was also introduced to create a \$200 million fund to promote the development of sports entertainment facilities across the state, including minor league stadiums where renovations will be necessary to maintain affiliations with major league teams. These minor league teams provide economic benefits to communities and promote synergies between the Orioles and their Maryland-based affiliates.

HB 896 and HB 897 would elevate the state as a sports tourism destination. Camden Yards Sports Complex is a valuable year-round community asset that helps to generate hotel stays and support jobs in Baltimore City and the surrounding areas. The minor league ballparks located in Aberdeen, Bowie, Frederick, Hagerstown, Salisbury and Waldorf do the same in those six local communities.

It is the desire of our members for these stadiums to remain competitive as best-in-class facilities to keep baseball teams and fans here in Maryland. Hotel guests spend \$5B annually throughout the state and hotels generate \$602M in state and local tax. Our industry provides great economic benefit to local communities when hotels are full. In fact, every 10 occupied rooms per night supports nearly 25 local jobs.

For the reasons expressed in this letter, we request a favorable report on HB H96 & HB 897.

Respectfully submitted, Amy Rohrer, CAE President & CEO



April 8, 2022
The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

HB896 - MARYLAND STADIUM AUTHORITY - INCREASE OF BOND AUTHORIZATION - CAMDEN YARDS

Dear Senator Guy Guzzone and Senator Rosapepe,

My name is Kristin Hanna and I am the legislative chair for the Maryland Tourism Coalition as well as the Senior Director of Marketing for Flying Dog Brewery. I am writing on behalf of Maryland Tourism Coalition today - an organization that represents tourism and hospitality businesses in Maryland. As we continue to battle the effects to COVID-19, we recognize that any support for Camden Yards will be a huge benefit to our entire eco-system. We urge you all to support increasing the debt cap listed in HB 896.

In order to address the long-term future of the stadiums, legislation was introduced to increase the debt cap from \$235 million to \$1.2 billion, with \$600 million allocated to each stadium. To service the debt, the amount allocated from lottery proceeds will be capped at \$90 million from the current \$20 million. These improvements are designed to increase the economic impact of the stadiums for the State, the City, and the teams.

Year-round events at the Camden Yards Sports Complex create jobs and generate sports, leisure and business visitor spending with the resulting tax revenues reinvested to fund essential citizen services and improve Marylander's quality of life. Positive images of our State during broadcasts of home games communicate to viewers that Maryland is 'Open for Business'.

In addition to MLB and NLF games, usage of the facilities for major motion picture and television locations, international soccer matches, college sports, concerts, V.I.P. visits, cultural festivals plus corporate events, non-profit fundraisers, graduations, proms, weddings, and family functions, further contribute to the value of the Camden Yards Sports Complex for Marylanders throughout the year.

As we compete with surrounding states to attract visitors, investing in our assets is critical. We know the resiliency of this amazing community and we look forward to your support moving forward.

Sincerely,

Kristin Hanna

Kristin Hanna
MTC Legislative Chair
Flying Dog Senior Director of Marketing
<a href="mailto:kristin.hanna@flyingdog.com">kristin.hanna@flyingdog.com</a>
480-710-2920

## JOHN MORTON, III POST OFFICE BOX 9765 ARNOLD, MARYLAND 21012

April 5, 2022

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

Re: Letter of Support - HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards To Chair Guzzone and the Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

I am John Morton III, Chairman Emeritus of the Maryland Stadium Authority, and offer my support of HB0896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards that further elevates Maryland as sports destination by investing in our award-winning facilities to maintain our professional teams and create business opportunities across the state for years to come.

The Camden Yards Sports Complex was a game changer for stadium construction, inspiring a generation of urban revitalization across the nation and serving as a catalyst for economic development for our city and state. Year-round events at the Camden Yards Sports Complex creates jobs and generates visitor spending with the resulting tax revenues reinvested to fund essential citizen services and improving Marylander's quality of life. Since 1992, by welcoming over 80 million visitors, there has been an estimated \$15.9 billion in total visitor spending at the Camden Yards Sports Complex, with \$9.2 billion attributed to the Baltimore Orioles and \$6.7 billion attributed to the Baltimore Ravens.

HB 896 before you today addresses the future of Camden Yards Sports Complex as the Orioles and the Ravens seek to renew their strong commitment to the State of Maryland and collaborate with MSA on long-term improvements over time designed to increase the economic impact of the stadiums for the state, the city, and the teams. This legislation demonstrates, through the MSA, Maryland's firm financial commitment to the Orioles and the Ravens and their respective leagues to stay and play in Maryland.

In closing, Maryland is blessed with two of the finest stadiums in Major League Baseball and the National Football League. It would be a tragedy for the State to see either one of these stadiums sit empty and without the Orioles or the Ravens. There would be a devastating economic impact on the State and the City and all Marylanders would experience immeasurable loss in the quality of life.

Maryland should not take for granted that our teams will always be with us in Baltimore or the State. Both teams have private ownership and many cities would provide significant incentives to lure the Orioles or the Ravens into relocating. To retain the teams, our responsibility is to continuously perform timely maintenance and invest in periodic apprades to retain top tier status.

Lastly, remember the Baltimore Colts.

LIM

Chairman Emeritus of the Maryland Stadium Authority

April 8, 2022

William P. Jones 4 Farview Road Baltimore MD 21212 410-206-8326

The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair Budget and Taxation Committee 3 West, Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support - HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards and HB 897 Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

To Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

I am writing this letter to demonstrate my support for HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards and HB 897 Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022. The funds that would be made available would insure that both the Baltimore Ravens and the Baltimore Orioles will remain in Baltimore Maryland for the foreseeable future.

In 1979, I joined the Orioles Designated Hitters (DH) Club, a volunteer organization whose mission was to help the Orioles establish financial stabilization through the sale of season tickets. The success of the DH Club and other factors were instrumental in Edward Bennett William's decision to keep the Orioles in Baltimore. This resulted in the formation of the Maryland Stadium Authority, the signing of a 30 year lease and the subsequent building of Oriole Park at Camden Yards.

Since 1992, by welcoming approximately 85 million visitors, there has been an estimated \$15.9 billion in total spending at the Camden Yards Sports Complex, with \$9.2 billion attributed to the Baltimore Orioles and \$6.7 billion attributed to the Baltimore Ravens. The passing of these bills will further benefit Baltimore City, the Greater Baltimore Region and the State of Maryland. The direct economic benefit will be in the tens of millions of dollars. The indirect benefits will be immeasurable. For the reasons expressed in this letter, I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 896 and HB 897 and am available for any questions that you may have.

Sincerely yours,

William P. Jones

Past President and CEO, The Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore

April 5, 2022

Harold I. Hackerman 3304 Redspire Lane Pikesville, MD 21208 HHack@ellinandtucker.com

The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair Budget and Taxation Committee 3 West, Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support - HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards and HB 897 Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

To Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

As a member of the member Orioles Designated Hitters Club (1979-present) and a member of Ravens Scouts (2019-present), a volunteer ticket sales force with the goal of bolstering the team's ticket sales efforts I support HB0896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards and its companion bill, HB0897 - Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022 that reinvests in the state's sports venues which creates jobs, generates economic benefits, encourages visitation and inspires civic pride.

The iconic Camden Yards Sports Complex resulted from visionary leadership and has been a successful investment and an important year-round entertainment and community asset for the greater Baltimore region. Furthermore, the teams stretch their influence across the state with Baltimore Orioles' minor league affiliates in Harford, Wicomico and Prince George's Counties and with the Baltimore Ravens headquarters and state-of-the-art training facility in Baltimore County. This legislation expands on that vision for the next generation and demonstrates Maryland's firm financial commitment to the Baltimore Orioles and the Baltimore Ravens and their respective leagues.

I look forward to celebrating the 30th anniversary of our beloved ballpark with the passage of HB 896 that affords an investment in the Camden Yards Sports Complex for future generations of Marylanders enjoyment and enrichment. You may reach me at any time with any questions.

Thank you,

Harold I. Hackerman

Member Orioles Designated Hitters Club (1979-present)

Member of Ravens Scouts (2019-present)

al I. Hacken

#### April 5, 2022 Robert J. Cecil

Timonium, MD 21093 Boh, Cecili@hotmail.com

The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair

3 West, Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support - HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorizat Canden Yards and HB 897 Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

To Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

As the retired Director of Sales, Hearst Broadcastina, WiBAL Radio, the lonetime flassible

station of the Orboles and Raconst radio networks, I have firsthand knowledge of the consoniinguest of our professional ports teams in the greater Baltimore region and across the state as as in support of HBH999 - Mary found Stadiem Authority - Increase of Bond Authoritations Cannolor Yanks and in compasion Bill, Illips997 - Sports Transcribsners Pacificies Act of 2022 that it vent in our award-infessing facilities to maintain our professional teams, serve our communifies and create basiness opportunities for years to cuercia.

For 30 years, the Camden Yards Sports Complex has served as a catalyst for economic development for our city and state. Year-round events creates jobs and generates visitor spending with the resulting tax revenues reinvested to fund essential citizen services and improving Monthson for the city of this.

The positive images of our city and our state during broadcasts of home games and the

to roury passes to the growth of the Maryland Stadium Authority, the State's flem flexacial commitment to the teams as they conew their long-term agreements to stay and play in Baltimore, Maryland, For the reasons expressed in this letter, I offer my support of HB 896 and

financial commitment to the teams as they renew their long-term agreements to stay and play Bultimore, Maryland. For the reasons expressed in this letter, I offer my support of HB 896 a HB 897 and an available for any questions that you may have. Thank you,

Robert J. Cocil
Retired Director of Sales, Hearst Broadcasting, WBAL Radio, Orioles Designated Hitters Club

## FAV\_MSA\_HB896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increas Uploaded by: Thomas Kelso

Position: FAV



Larry Hogan *Governor* 

Michael J. Frenz Executive Director

Members

Thomas E. Kelso

Leonard J. Attman Joseph C. Bryce Michael Huber Gary L. Mangum Manervia W. Riddick Jodi C. Stanalonis

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

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

## **Maryland Stadium Authority - Letter of Support**

HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards

#### **BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE**

The Honorable, Senator, Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator, Jim Rosapepe Vice Chair

Written Testimony, Letter of Support
Thomas Kelso, Chairman, Maryland Stadium Authority
Michael J. Frenz, Executive Director, Maryland Stadium Authority

Good afternoon, Chair Guzzone and Vice Chair Rosapepe and honorable members of the Budget and Taxation Committee, I am Thomas Kelso, the Chairman with Michael J. Frenz, the Executive Director of the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) and we appreciate the opportunity to provide this written Letter of Support for HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase Of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards.

This legislation, HB 896 addresses the future of Camden Yards Sports Complex as the teams seek to renew their strong commitment to the State of Maryland and collaborate with MSA on long-term improvements over time designed to extend the useful lives of the stadiums and increase the economic impact from the stadiums for the State, the City, and the teams.

In order to address the long-term future of the stadiums, this legislation was introduced to increase the debt cap from \$235 million to \$1.2 billion, with \$600 million allocated to each stadium. To service the debt, the amount allocated from lottery proceeds will be capped at \$90 million from the current \$20 million. These improvements are designed to increase the economic impact of the stadiums for the State, the City, and the teams.

The MSA's bonding authority was last increased in 1986, this legislation seeks to modify the amount, and retains all the necessary approvals and oversight required for the MSA's projects for the past 35 years. The amount of lottery funds to be requested each year will be only the amount needed for the outstanding debt service, not the full amount.

MSA continues to work with both the Baltimore Orioles and Baltimore Ravens in order to ensure that the stadiums remain best-in-class facilities in terms of safety and fan experience. The creative approach contained in this legislation allows the MSA to work with each team individually to develop, design and construct improvements that will increase returns for them and for the State and City. The MSA believes that our ability to work continuously with each team simultaneously to invest in the stadiums is a critical element to the successful negotiation of agreements that will retain them in Baltimore.

The Camden Yards Sports Complex was the result of visionary leadership and has been a successful investment for the City of Baltimore and the State of Maryland and an important year-round community asset. With this legislation, the State of Maryland, through the MSA, will further that vision for the next generation and expand the exemplary economic development partnerships with both professional teams.

As stadium and fan experience trends evolve, this legislation creates an evergreen and flexible fund for both innovative revenue-generating improvements that align with the teams' long-term needs and all of the necessary infrastructure investments required to keep our stadiums competitive. The success of this proposed legislation, and the continuing investments it affords will help ensure the longevity and prosperity of the Camden Yards Sports Complex long into the future.

Since 1992, there has been approximately \$15.9 billion in total spending at the Camden Yards Sports Complex, with \$9.2 billion attributed to the Baltimore Orioles and \$6.7 billion attributed to the Baltimore Ravens. Based on tax revenues of a \$1 billion, less \$670 million in debt service in bonds issued to build the Camden Yards Sports Complex, the State of Maryland has earned a \$330 million return on its investment.

Since 1992	Orioles	Ravens
Approximately 85 million visitors	70 million	15 million
Approximately \$15.9 billion in total spending	\$9.2 billion	\$6.7 billion
Approximately 4,000 jobs each year	2,400	1,600
Approximately \$8.3 billion in employee earnings	\$4.8 billion	\$3.5 billion
Approximately \$1.0 billion in state revenues	\$0.6 billion	\$0.4 billion
Approximately \$670 million in debt service	\$0.45 billion Oriole Park at Camden Yards	\$0.22 billion M&T Bank Stadium

In closing, this legislation demonstrates, through the MSA, Maryland's firm financial commitment to the Baltimore Orioles and the Baltimore Ravens and their respective leagues to remain in our State at the Camden Yards Sports Complex for many years to come. For the reasons expressed in this letter, we request a favorable report on HB 896.



Office of Government Relations 88 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**HB 896** 

April 8, 2022

**TO:** Members of the Senate Budget and Tax Committee

**FROM:** Natasha Mehu, Director, Office of Government Relations

**RE:** House Bill 896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization -

Camden Yards

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 896.

HB 896 would increase the caps on debt issuance and debt service amounts for the Camden Yards Sports Complex, which includes Oriole Park at Camden Yards and M&T Bank Stadium, to enable necessary investments in and redevelopment of the site. The Camden Yards Sports Complex is an important source of entertainment, jobs, tourism, and associated revenue for not only Baltimore City but the State of Maryland. Ensuring the complex can be not only renovated but reimagined for the continued enjoyment of our residents is important to the Scott Administration.

Year-round events at the Camden Yards Sports Complex create jobs and generate sports, leisure, and business visitor spending with the resulting tax revenues reinvested to fund essential citizen services and improve Marylander's quality of life. Positive images of our City during broadcasts of home games communicate to viewers that Maryland is open for both business and leisure.

The complex provides significant value to all Marylanders. In addition to MLB and NLF games, facilities are also used year-round for major motion picture and television locations, international soccer matches, college sports, concerts, V.I.P. visits, cultural festivals plus corporate events, non-profit fundraisers, graduations, proms, weddings, and family functions. In the event of severe weather events, the Camden Yards Sports Complex houses emergency crews, their



The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair Budget and Taxation Committee 3 West Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB0896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to enthusiastically submit support HB896 on behalf of the Downtown Partnership of Baltimore (DPOB) and its Board of Directors. The Business Community created DPOB in 1983 to foster a clean, safe, and welcoming environment for residents, businesses, and tourists. DPOB is represented by more than ninety-one prominent businesses and community stakeholders on its board and 650 members.

While Downtown has its challenges, our momentum over the past 18 months is trending in the right direction and essential to the economic vitality of the City. The Administration's commitment to relocating the state agencies to the core of Downtown was a much-needed catalyst. Results of an economic impact study on the traditional core by economic development expert, Richard Clinch, PhD, highlighted Downtown as the economic driver of the city, while also noting the need to update infrastructure and increase amenities to support the anticipated growth.

The development of the Camden Yards Sports Complex was visionary and inspired a generation of urban revitalization across the nation. With its national prominence, the complex welcomes sports and entertainment experiences that help make Baltimore a destination of choice. As a result, Downtown receives incredible economic benefits with impact beyond the field and into nearby restaurants, hotels, and office suites. The stadiums provide access to amenities that residents, visitors, and businesses want while injecting vitality into our urban core. This is no time, given our history, to take our two stadiums for granted. We must go forward with vision as we did 30 years ago!

The Downtown Partnership of Baltimore staff and board understand the value of HB0896, which increases the caps on debt issuance and debt service amounts for the Camden Yards Sports Complex. Passage of this legislation will incentivize the Orioles and Ravens to renew their commitments to the State of Maryland and provide resources to increase the already significant economic impacts of the stadiums. This legislation demonstrates Maryland's financial commitment to the teams and their leagues for them to remain in the State for years to come. And this legislation also highlights the State's commitment to investing in the City of Baltimore and all of us who call home, work, or a great place to visit.

If you have any questions or require anything additional, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Shelonda Stokes

Shelonda Stakes

President

Downtown Partnership of Baltimore

vehicles, and equipment, plus the Maryland National Guard for any humanitarian relief as necessary. During the especially challenging times of the pandemic, the Camden Yards Sports Complex was transformed into a food relief hub, voting center, testing, and mass vaccination site, serving Marylanders in their greatest time of need.

The time is now to holistically redevelop Camden as the MSA, the Baltimore Orioles, and the Baltimore Ravens reimagining the Camden Yards Sports Complex as the teams seek to renew their strong commitment to the State of Maryland. These stakeholders function as economic development partners with the shared goal of funding facility infrastructure and fan-friendly improvements, while creating a business environment for continued success.

The iconic Camden Yards Sports Complex resulted from visionary leadership and has been a successful investment and an important year-round entertainment and community asset for Maryland. This legislation expands on that vision for the next generation and demonstrates Maryland's firm financial commitment to the Baltimore Orioles and the Baltimore Ravens and their respective leagues. We hope this legislation can ensure that the Camden Yards Sports Complex remains a top destination for future generations of Marylanders' enjoyment and enrichment.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 896.



April 5, 2022

The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB0896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards
HB0987 - Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

Dear Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore (EAGB), I am writing to register our strong support for HB0896. The legislation will increase the cap on debt issuance and debt service from the current limit of \$235M to \$1.2B to be used to improve and enhance the facilities within the Camden Yards Sports Complex. By providing the resources needed for Oriole Park and M&T Stadium to remain competitive top-of-class homes for the Orioles and the Ravens, the State of Maryland will demonstrate their commitment to keeping the teams in Baltimore for years to come.

EAGB is a regional business organization dedicated to marketing the economic assets of the Greater Baltimore region, elevating the Region to a location of choice for employment, investment, and business location. We work in collaboration with our board members and other stakeholders to help catalyze economic opportunities and create pathways that enable residents throughout the region to be able to take advantage of these opportunities.

EAGB's member jurisdictions – Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Howard, Cecil, Carroll, Harford and Baltimore Counties – collaborate on programs and activities that celebrate the strengths of the entire Region, recognizing that the assets of one jurisdiction benefit the others and that Baltimore City is the heart of the Region. A vibrant Camden Yards as the home of two



major league teams is a major asset for the entire Region and a critical element of the City's economic health and vitality.

The Camden Yards Sports Complex was a game changer for stadium development as a catalyst for urban revitalization across the country. More importantly, for over three decades Camden Yards has been a catalyst for economic development resulting in significant economic benefits for Baltimore City, the Greater Baltimore region and the State. This legislation, once passed, will continue this tradition of visionary and future-focused leadership

We also urge approval of HB0897, as amended. Authorizing the Maryland Stadium Authority to issue bonds to assist in advancing the sports and sports entertainment industries throughout the State by financing the acquisition, design and construction of facilities needed for these industries to grow will bring significant direct and indirect economic benefits to the Greater Baltimore region and the entire State.

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and members of the Committee, we urge you to approve HB0896 and HB897. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Respectfully,

Michele Whelley President & CEO

CC: EAGB Board of Directors

List Attached



## **2022 EAGB BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **OFFICERS**

CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield: Brian Pieninck, President & CEO – Chair of the Board Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore: Michele Whelley – President & CEO Ellin & Tucker, Chartered: Edwin R. Brake, Managing Director & CEO – Treasurer Whiteford Taylor Preston LLP: Martin T. Fletcher, Managing Partner – Secretary of Counsel

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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Baltimore Gas & Electric Company, an Exelon Company: Carim Khouzami, Chief Executive Officer

Bank of America: Janet Currie, Greater Maryland Market President

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Evergreen Advisors: Rick Kohr, Chief Executive Officer

Johns Hopkins University: Christy Wyskiel, Senior Advisor to the President

M&T Bank: August J. Chiasera, Regional President – Greater Baltimore/Chesapeake

Towson University: Kim Schatzel, President

Venable LLP: Stacie Tobin, Partner

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#### **DIRECTORS**

Anne Arundel County Government: Steuart Pittman, County Executive

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Carroll County Government: Ed Rothstein, Commissioner

Catalyte: Jacob Hsu, CEO

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The Daily Record: Suzanne Fischer-Huettner, Group Publisher

**Duane Morris, LLP:** Bruce Jurist, Partner **Ernst & Young:** Steve Canaras, Partner

Exelon: Calvin Butler, Senior Executive Vice President & COO

First National Bank: J. MacGregor Tisdale, President – Maryland Region

Howard Community College: Dr. Daria Willis, President

Harford County Government: Barry Glassman, County Executive

Howard County Economic & Development Authority: Lawrence Twele, CEO (Chair, Advisory Committee)

Howard County Government: Calvin Ball, County Executive The Howard Hughes Corporation: Greg Fitchitt, President

LifeBridge Health, Neil Meltzer, President & CEO

Loyola University of Maryland: John Coppola, VP - Finance and Administration/Treasurer

1200 Steuart Street, Unit C1B, Baltimore, MD 21230



Maryland Department of Commerce: Mike Gill, Secretary

Miles & Stockbridge: Nancy Greene, Chair

Morgan Stanley: John DeLong, Managing Director

Morgan State University: Dr. David Kwabena Wilson, President

NetCraftsmen: Paul Mauritz, President & CEO

PNC Bank: George von Zedlitz, SVP – Marketing Managing Director

RSM: Art Yonowitz, Partner – Tax Services

St. John Properties: Andrew Roud, Regional Partner

Tradepoint Atlantic: Aaron Tomarchio, Executive Vice President of Corporate Affairs

Truist: Gregory Farno, President – Maryland Region UMBC Training Centers: Jon Lau, President & CTO

University System of Maryland: Dr. Jay Perman, Chancellor

Verizon Communications: Eric Reed, Vice President – Public Policy & Local Engagement

Wells Fargo: Derek Lynch, Senior Vice President, Commercial Banking Leader

## **NON-VOTING DIRECTORS**

Cybersecurity Association of Maryland: Chris Sachse, CEO, Think | Stack

Cybersecurity Association of Maryland: Shelley Lombardo, COO, Evergreen Advisors

Maryland Tech Council: Todd Marks (Chair of MTC), President & CEO - Mindgrub

Regional Manufacturing Institute: Michael Galiazzo, President

U.S. House of Representatives: Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger - <u>Director Emeritus</u>



400 E PRATT ST, 10TH FLOOR BALTIMORE, MD 21202

BALTIMORE.ORG

#### **HB896**

April 7, 2022

TO: Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

FROM: Al Hutchinson, President & CEO, Visit Baltimore

RE: HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization Camden Yards

POSITION: SUPPORT

Honorable Chair Guzzone, and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

Visit Baltimore **supports HB896** Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization Camden Yards.

Visit Baltimore, the official destination marketing organization of Baltimore, supports the reinvestment in the Camden Yards Sports Complex that creates jobs and generates economic benefits to our city from business and leisure travelers throughout the year.

The iconic Camden Yards Sports Complex in Baltimore, which includes Oriole Park and M&T Bank Stadium, is one of the most recognizable landmarks and attractions in Maryland. Positive media impressions during game day telecasts, especially during All Star and play-off games elevates Baltimore as a destination, inspires civic pride and encourages visitation by sports fans and conference guests.

Since 1992, approximately 80 million visitors have contributed to an estimated \$15.9 billion in total spending at the Camden Yards Sports Complex, with \$9.2 billion attributed to the Baltimore Orioles and \$6.7 billion attributed to the Baltimore Ravens.

Visit Baltimore supports this legislation that expands on the visionary leadership that created the Camden Yards Sports Complex.

Submitted respectfully,

Al Hutchinson President & CEO



#### **SUPPORT**

#### HB896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards HB897 - Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

April 6, 2022

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe & Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

As the sole statewide trade association dedicated to advocacy for Maryland's lodging industry, with more than 700 hotels totaling 75,000+ rooms, we support HB896 and HB897.

In order to address the long-term future of the stadiums, HB896 was introduced to increase the debt cap from \$235 million to \$1.2 billion, with \$600 million allocated to each stadium. To service the debt, the amount allocated from lottery proceeds will be capped at \$90 million from the current \$20 million. These improvements are designed to increase the economic impact of the stadiums for the State, the City, and the teams.

Companion legislation, HB897, was also introduced to create a \$200 million fund to promote the development of sports entertainment facilities across the state, including minor league stadiums where renovations will be necessary to maintain affiliations with major league teams. These minor league teams provide economic benefits to communities and promote synergies between the Orioles and their Maryland-based affiliates.

HB 896 and HB 897 would elevate the state as a sports tourism destination. Camden Yards Sports Complex is a valuable year-round community asset that helps to generate hotel stays and support jobs in Baltimore City and the surrounding areas. The minor league ballparks located in Aberdeen, Bowie, Frederick, Hagerstown, Salisbury and Waldorf do the same in those six local communities.

It is the desire of our members for these stadiums to remain competitive as best-in-class facilities to keep baseball teams and fans here in Maryland. Hotel guests spend \$5B annually throughout the state and hotels generate \$602M in state and local tax. Our industry provides great economic benefit to local communities when hotels are full. In fact, every 10 occupied rooms per night supports nearly 25 local jobs.

For the reasons expressed in this letter, we request a favorable report on HB H96 & HB 897.

Respectfully submitted, Amy Rohrer, CAE President & CEO



April 8, 2022
The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

HB896 - MARYLAND STADIUM AUTHORITY - INCREASE OF BOND AUTHORIZATION - CAMDEN YARDS

Dear Senator Guy Guzzone and Senator Rosapepe,

My name is Kristin Hanna and I am the legislative chair for the Maryland Tourism Coalition as well as the Senior Director of Marketing for Flying Dog Brewery. I am writing on behalf of Maryland Tourism Coalition today - an organization that represents tourism and hospitality businesses in Maryland. As we continue to battle the effects to COVID-19, we recognize that any support for Camden Yards will be a huge benefit to our entire eco-system. We urge you all to support increasing the debt cap listed in HB 896.

In order to address the long-term future of the stadiums, legislation was introduced to increase the debt cap from \$235 million to \$1.2 billion, with \$600 million allocated to each stadium. To service the debt, the amount allocated from lottery proceeds will be capped at \$90 million from the current \$20 million. These improvements are designed to increase the economic impact of the stadiums for the State, the City, and the teams.

Year-round events at the Camden Yards Sports Complex create jobs and generate sports, leisure and business visitor spending with the resulting tax revenues reinvested to fund essential citizen services and improve Marylander's quality of life. Positive images of our State during broadcasts of home games communicate to viewers that Maryland is 'Open for Business'.

In addition to MLB and NLF games, usage of the facilities for major motion picture and television locations, international soccer matches, college sports, concerts, V.I.P. visits, cultural festivals plus corporate events, non-profit fundraisers, graduations, proms, weddings, and family functions, further contribute to the value of the Camden Yards Sports Complex for Marylanders throughout the year.

As we compete with surrounding states to attract visitors, investing in our assets is critical. We know the resiliency of this amazing community and we look forward to your support moving forward.

Sincerely,

Kristin Hanna

Kristin Hanna
MTC Legislative Chair
Flying Dog Senior Director of Marketing
<a href="mailto:kristin.hanna@flyingdog.com">kristin.hanna@flyingdog.com</a>
480-710-2920

## JOHN MORTON, III POST OFFICE BOX 9765 ARNOLD, MARYLAND 21012

April 5, 2022

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

Re: Letter of Support - HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards To Chair Guzzone and the Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

I am John Morton III, Chairman Emeritus of the Maryland Stadium Authority, and offer my support of HB0896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards that further elevates Maryland as sports destination by investing in our award-winning facilities to maintain our professional teams and create business opportunities across the state for years to come.

The Camden Yards Sports Complex was a game changer for stadium construction, inspiring a generation of urban revitalization across the nation and serving as a catalyst for economic development for our city and state. Year-round events at the Camden Yards Sports Complex creates jobs and generates visitor spending with the resulting tax revenues reinvested to fund essential citizen services and improving Marylander's quality of life. Since 1992, by welcoming over 80 million visitors, there has been an estimated \$15.9 billion in total visitor spending at the Camden Yards Sports Complex, with \$9.2 billion attributed to the Baltimore Orioles and \$6.7 billion attributed to the Baltimore Ravens.

HB 896 before you today addresses the future of Camden Yards Sports Complex as the Orioles and the Ravens seek to renew their strong commitment to the State of Maryland and collaborate with MSA on long-term improvements over time designed to increase the economic impact of the stadiums for the state, the city, and the teams. This legislation demonstrates, through the MSA, Maryland's firm financial commitment to the Orioles and the Ravens and their respective leagues to stay and play in Maryland.

In closing, Maryland is blessed with two of the finest stadiums in Major League Baseball and the National Football League. It would be a tragedy for the State to see either one of these stadiums sit empty and without the Orioles or the Ravens. There would be a devastating economic impact on the State and the City and all Marylanders would experience immeasurable loss in the quality of life.

Maryland should not take for granted that our teams will always be with us in Baltimore or the State. Both teams have private ownership and many cities would provide significant incentives to lure the Orioles or the Ravens into relocating. To retain the teams, our responsibility is to continuously perform timely maintenance and invest in periodic apprades to retain top tier status.

Lastly, remember the Baltimore Colts.

Chairman Emeritus of the Maryland Stadium Authority

April 8, 2022

William P. Jones 4 Farview Road Baltimore MD 21212 410-206-8326

The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair Budget and Taxation Committee 3 West, Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support - HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards and HB 897 Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

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In 1979, I joined the Orioles Designated Hitters (DH) Club, a volunteer organization whose mission was to help the Orioles establish financial stabilization through the sale of season tickets. The success of the DH Club and other factors were instrumental in Edward Bennett William's decision to keep the Orioles in Baltimore. This resulted in the formation of the Maryland Stadium Authority, the signing of a 30 year lease and the subsequent building of Oriole Park at Camden Yards.

Since 1992, by welcoming approximately 85 million visitors, there has been an estimated \$15.9 billion in total spending at the Camden Yards Sports Complex, with \$9.2 billion attributed to the Baltimore Orioles and \$6.7 billion attributed to the Baltimore Ravens. The passing of these bills will further benefit Baltimore City, the Greater Baltimore Region and the State of Maryland. The direct economic benefit will be in the tens of millions of dollars. The indirect benefits will be immeasurable. For the reasons expressed in this letter, I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 896 and HB 897 and am available for any questions that you may have.

Sincerely yours,

William P. Jones

Past President and CEO, The Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore

April 5, 2022

Harold I. Hackerman 3304 Redspire Lane Pikesville, MD 21208 HHack@ellinandtucker.com

The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair Budget and Taxation Committee 3 West, Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support - HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards and HB 897 Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

To Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

As a member of the member Orioles Designated Hitters Club (1979-present) and a member of Ravens Scouts (2019-present), a volunteer ticket sales force with the goal of bolstering the team's ticket sales efforts I support HB0896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards and its companion bill, HB0897 - Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022 that reinvests in the state's sports venues which creates jobs, generates economic benefits, encourages visitation and inspires civic pride.

The iconic Camden Yards Sports Complex resulted from visionary leadership and has been a successful investment and an important year-round entertainment and community asset for the greater Baltimore region. Furthermore, the teams stretch their influence across the state with Baltimore Orioles' minor league affiliates in Harford, Wicomico and Prince George's Counties and with the Baltimore Ravens headquarters and state-of-the-art training facility in Baltimore County. This legislation expands on that vision for the next generation and demonstrates Maryland's firm financial commitment to the Baltimore Orioles and the Baltimore Ravens and their respective leagues.

I look forward to celebrating the 30th anniversary of our beloved ballpark with the passage of HB 896 that affords an investment in the Camden Yards Sports Complex for future generations of Marylanders enjoyment and enrichment. You may reach me at any time with any questions.

Thank you,

Harold I. Hackerman

Member Orioles Designated Hitters Club (1979-present)

Member of Ravens Scouts (2019-present)

al I. Hacken

#### Robert J. Cecil

Timonium, MD 21093 Bob.Cecili@hotmail.com

The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair

3 West, Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support - HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorizat Camden Yards and HB 897 Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

To Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation

As the referred Director of Safes, Hannel Broudcastrating, WHAE, Radio, the longitime flagshipstation of the Oriolas and Resource and noneworks, I have findament knowledge of the expension impact of our professional sports teams in the greater Bultimore region and across the sisten as common teams of the state of the second section of the secti

For 10 years, the Camden Yards Sports Complex has served as a catalyst for economic development for our city and state. Year-round events creates jobs and generates visitor spending with the resulting tax revenues reinvested to fund essential citizen services and improving.

The positive images of our city and our state during broadcasts of home games and the

In closing, HIB 896 demonstrates, through the Maryland Stadium Authority, the State's flem financial commitment to the teams as they renew their long-term agreements to stay and play in Baltimore, Maryland. For the reasons expressed in this letter, I offer my support of HB 896 and

transcus continuments to me teams as they renew team song-errar agreements to may and pay Bullitimore, May faind. For the reasons expressed in his letter, I effer my support of HB 896 a HB 897 and am available for any questions that you may have.

Thank you,

Retired Director of Sales, Hearst Broadcasting, WBAL Radio, Orioles Designated Hitters Club

# FAV\_MSA\_HB896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increas Uploaded by: Thomas Kelso

Position: FAV



Larry Hogan *Governor* 

Michael J. Frenz Executive Director

Members

Thomas E. Kelso

Leonard J. Attman Joseph C. Bryce Michael Huber Gary L. Mangum Manervia W. Riddick Jodi C. Stanalonis

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

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

#### **Maryland Stadium Authority - Letter of Support**

HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards

#### **BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE**

The Honorable, Senator, Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator, Jim Rosapepe Vice Chair

Written Testimony, Letter of Support
Thomas Kelso, Chairman, Maryland Stadium Authority
Michael J. Frenz, Executive Director, Maryland Stadium Authority

Good afternoon, Chair Guzzone and Vice Chair Rosapepe and honorable members of the Budget and Taxation Committee, I am Thomas Kelso, the Chairman with Michael J. Frenz, the Executive Director of the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) and we appreciate the opportunity to provide this written Letter of Support for HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase Of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards.

This legislation, HB 896 addresses the future of Camden Yards Sports Complex as the teams seek to renew their strong commitment to the State of Maryland and collaborate with MSA on long-term improvements over time designed to extend the useful lives of the stadiums and increase the economic impact from the stadiums for the State, the City, and the teams.

In order to address the long-term future of the stadiums, this legislation was introduced to increase the debt cap from \$235 million to \$1.2 billion, with \$600 million allocated to each stadium. To service the debt, the amount allocated from lottery proceeds will be capped at \$90 million from the current \$20 million. These improvements are designed to increase the economic impact of the stadiums for the State, the City, and the teams.

The MSA's bonding authority was last increased in 1986, this legislation seeks to modify the amount, and retains all the necessary approvals and oversight required for the MSA's projects for the past 35 years. The amount of lottery funds to be requested each year will be only the amount needed for the outstanding debt service, not the full amount.

MSA continues to work with both the Baltimore Orioles and Baltimore Ravens in order to ensure that the stadiums remain best-in-class facilities in terms of safety and fan experience. The creative approach contained in this legislation allows the MSA to work with each team individually to develop, design and construct improvements that will increase returns for them and for the State and City. The MSA believes that our ability to work continuously with each team simultaneously to invest in the stadiums is a critical element to the successful negotiation of agreements that will retain them in Baltimore.

The Camden Yards Sports Complex was the result of visionary leadership and has been a successful investment for the City of Baltimore and the State of Maryland and an important year-round community asset. With this legislation, the State of Maryland, through the MSA, will further that vision for the next generation and expand the exemplary economic development partnerships with both professional teams.

As stadium and fan experience trends evolve, this legislation creates an evergreen and flexible fund for both innovative revenue-generating improvements that align with the teams' long-term needs and all of the necessary infrastructure investments required to keep our stadiums competitive. The success of this proposed legislation, and the continuing investments it affords will help ensure the longevity and prosperity of the Camden Yards Sports Complex long into the future.

Since 1992, there has been approximately \$15.9 billion in total spending at the Camden Yards Sports Complex, with \$9.2 billion attributed to the Baltimore Orioles and \$6.7 billion attributed to the Baltimore Ravens. Based on tax revenues of a \$1 billion, less \$670 million in debt service in bonds issued to build the Camden Yards Sports Complex, the State of Maryland has earned a \$330 million return on its investment.

Since 1992	Orioles	Ravens
Approximately 85 million visitors	70 million	15 million
Approximately \$15.9 billion in total spending	\$9.2 billion	\$6.7 billion
Approximately 4,000 jobs each year	2,400	1,600
Approximately \$8.3 billion in employee earnings	\$4.8 billion	\$3.5 billion
Approximately \$1.0 billion in state revenues	\$0.6 billion	\$0.4 billion
Approximately \$670 million in debt service	\$0.45 billion Oriole Park at Camden Yards	\$0.22 billion M&T Bank Stadium

In closing, this legislation demonstrates, through the MSA, Maryland's firm financial commitment to the Baltimore Orioles and the Baltimore Ravens and their respective leagues to remain in our State at the Camden Yards Sports Complex for many years to come. For the reasons expressed in this letter, we request a favorable report on HB 896.



Office of Government Relations 88 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**HB 896** 

April 8, 2022

**TO:** Members of the Senate Budget and Tax Committee

**FROM:** Natasha Mehu, Director, Office of Government Relations

**RE:** House Bill 896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization -

Camden Yards

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 896.

HB 896 would increase the caps on debt issuance and debt service amounts for the Camden Yards Sports Complex, which includes Oriole Park at Camden Yards and M&T Bank Stadium, to enable necessary investments in and redevelopment of the site. The Camden Yards Sports Complex is an important source of entertainment, jobs, tourism, and associated revenue for not only Baltimore City but the State of Maryland. Ensuring the complex can be not only renovated but reimagined for the continued enjoyment of our residents is important to the Scott Administration.

Year-round events at the Camden Yards Sports Complex create jobs and generate sports, leisure, and business visitor spending with the resulting tax revenues reinvested to fund essential citizen services and improve Marylander's quality of life. Positive images of our City during broadcasts of home games communicate to viewers that Maryland is open for both business and leisure.

The complex provides significant value to all Marylanders. In addition to MLB and NLF games, facilities are also used year-round for major motion picture and television locations, international soccer matches, college sports, concerts, V.I.P. visits, cultural festivals plus corporate events, non-profit fundraisers, graduations, proms, weddings, and family functions. In the event of severe weather events, the Camden Yards Sports Complex houses emergency crews, their



The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair Budget and Taxation Committee 3 West Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB0896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to enthusiastically submit support HB896 on behalf of the Downtown Partnership of Baltimore (DPOB) and its Board of Directors. The Business Community created DPOB in 1983 to foster a clean, safe, and welcoming environment for residents, businesses, and tourists. DPOB is represented by more than ninety-one prominent businesses and community stakeholders on its board and 650 members.

While Downtown has its challenges, our momentum over the past 18 months is trending in the right direction and essential to the economic vitality of the City. The Administration's commitment to relocating the state agencies to the core of Downtown was a much-needed catalyst. Results of an economic impact study on the traditional core by economic development expert, Richard Clinch, PhD, highlighted Downtown as the economic driver of the city, while also noting the need to update infrastructure and increase amenities to support the anticipated growth.

The development of the Camden Yards Sports Complex was visionary and inspired a generation of urban revitalization across the nation. With its national prominence, the complex welcomes sports and entertainment experiences that help make Baltimore a destination of choice. As a result, Downtown receives incredible economic benefits with impact beyond the field and into nearby restaurants, hotels, and office suites. The stadiums provide access to amenities that residents, visitors, and businesses want while injecting vitality into our urban core. This is no time, given our history, to take our two stadiums for granted. We must go forward with vision as we did 30 years ago!

The Downtown Partnership of Baltimore staff and board understand the value of HB0896, which increases the caps on debt issuance and debt service amounts for the Camden Yards Sports Complex. Passage of this legislation will incentivize the Orioles and Ravens to renew their commitments to the State of Maryland and provide resources to increase the already significant economic impacts of the stadiums. This legislation demonstrates Maryland's financial commitment to the teams and their leagues for them to remain in the State for years to come. And this legislation also highlights the State's commitment to investing in the City of Baltimore and all of us who call home, work, or a great place to visit.

If you have any questions or require anything additional, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Shelonda Stokes

Shelonda Stakes

President

Downtown Partnership of Baltimore

vehicles, and equipment, plus the Maryland National Guard for any humanitarian relief as necessary. During the especially challenging times of the pandemic, the Camden Yards Sports Complex was transformed into a food relief hub, voting center, testing, and mass vaccination site, serving Marylanders in their greatest time of need.

The time is now to holistically redevelop Camden as the MSA, the Baltimore Orioles, and the Baltimore Ravens reimagining the Camden Yards Sports Complex as the teams seek to renew their strong commitment to the State of Maryland. These stakeholders function as economic development partners with the shared goal of funding facility infrastructure and fan-friendly improvements, while creating a business environment for continued success.

The iconic Camden Yards Sports Complex resulted from visionary leadership and has been a successful investment and an important year-round entertainment and community asset for Maryland. This legislation expands on that vision for the next generation and demonstrates Maryland's firm financial commitment to the Baltimore Orioles and the Baltimore Ravens and their respective leagues. We hope this legislation can ensure that the Camden Yards Sports Complex remains a top destination for future generations of Marylanders' enjoyment and enrichment.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 896.



April 5, 2022

The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB0896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards
HB0987 - Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

Dear Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore (EAGB), I am writing to register our strong support for HB0896. The legislation will increase the cap on debt issuance and debt service from the current limit of \$235M to \$1.2B to be used to improve and enhance the facilities within the Camden Yards Sports Complex. By providing the resources needed for Oriole Park and M&T Stadium to remain competitive top-of-class homes for the Orioles and the Ravens, the State of Maryland will demonstrate their commitment to keeping the teams in Baltimore for years to come.

EAGB is a regional business organization dedicated to marketing the economic assets of the Greater Baltimore region, elevating the Region to a location of choice for employment, investment, and business location. We work in collaboration with our board members and other stakeholders to help catalyze economic opportunities and create pathways that enable residents throughout the region to be able to take advantage of these opportunities.

EAGB's member jurisdictions – Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Howard, Cecil, Carroll, Harford and Baltimore Counties – collaborate on programs and activities that celebrate the strengths of the entire Region, recognizing that the assets of one jurisdiction benefit the others and that Baltimore City is the heart of the Region. A vibrant Camden Yards as the home of two



major league teams is a major asset for the entire Region and a critical element of the City's economic health and vitality.

The Camden Yards Sports Complex was a game changer for stadium development as a catalyst for urban revitalization across the country. More importantly, for over three decades Camden Yards has been a catalyst for economic development resulting in significant economic benefits for Baltimore City, the Greater Baltimore region and the State. This legislation, once passed, will continue this tradition of visionary and future-focused leadership

We also urge approval of HB0897, as amended. Authorizing the Maryland Stadium Authority to issue bonds to assist in advancing the sports and sports entertainment industries throughout the State by financing the acquisition, design and construction of facilities needed for these industries to grow will bring significant direct and indirect economic benefits to the Greater Baltimore region and the entire State.

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and members of the Committee, we urge you to approve HB0896 and HB897. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Respectfully,

Michele Whelley President & CEO

CC: EAGB Board of Directors

List Attached



# **2022 EAGB BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **OFFICERS**

CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield: Brian Pieninck, President & CEO – Chair of the Board Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore: Michele Whelley – President & CEO Ellin & Tucker, Chartered: Edwin R. Brake, Managing Director & CEO – Treasurer Whiteford Taylor Preston LLP: Martin T. Fletcher, Managing Partner – Secretary of Counsel

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Johns Hopkins University: Christy Wyskiel, Senior Advisor to the President

M&T Bank: August J. Chiasera, Regional President – Greater Baltimore/Chesapeake

Towson University: Kim Schatzel, President

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Howard County Government: Calvin Ball, County Executive The Howard Hughes Corporation: Greg Fitchitt, President

LifeBridge Health, Neil Meltzer, President & CEO

Loyola University of Maryland: John Coppola, VP - Finance and Administration/Treasurer

1200 Steuart Street, Unit C1B, Baltimore, MD 21230



Maryland Department of Commerce: Mike Gill, Secretary

Miles & Stockbridge: Nancy Greene, Chair

Morgan Stanley: John DeLong, Managing Director

Morgan State University: Dr. David Kwabena Wilson, President

NetCraftsmen: Paul Mauritz, President & CEO

PNC Bank: George von Zedlitz, SVP – Marketing Managing Director

RSM: Art Yonowitz, Partner – Tax Services

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Truist: Gregory Farno, President – Maryland Region UMBC Training Centers: Jon Lau, President & CTO

University System of Maryland: Dr. Jay Perman, Chancellor

Verizon Communications: Eric Reed, Vice President – Public Policy & Local Engagement

Wells Fargo: Derek Lynch, Senior Vice President, Commercial Banking Leader

### **NON-VOTING DIRECTORS**

Cybersecurity Association of Maryland: Chris Sachse, CEO, Think | Stack

Cybersecurity Association of Maryland: Shelley Lombardo, COO, Evergreen Advisors

Maryland Tech Council: Todd Marks (Chair of MTC), President & CEO - Mindgrub

Regional Manufacturing Institute: Michael Galiazzo, President

U.S. House of Representatives: Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger - <u>Director Emeritus</u>



400 E PRATT ST, 10TH FLOOR BALTIMORE, MD 21202

BALTIMORE.ORG

#### **HB896**

April 7, 2022

TO: Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

FROM: Al Hutchinson, President & CEO, Visit Baltimore

RE: HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization Camden Yards

POSITION: SUPPORT

Honorable Chair Guzzone, and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

Visit Baltimore **supports HB896** Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization Camden Yards.

Visit Baltimore, the official destination marketing organization of Baltimore, supports the reinvestment in the Camden Yards Sports Complex that creates jobs and generates economic benefits to our city from business and leisure travelers throughout the year.

The iconic Camden Yards Sports Complex in Baltimore, which includes Oriole Park and M&T Bank Stadium, is one of the most recognizable landmarks and attractions in Maryland. Positive media impressions during game day telecasts, especially during All Star and play-off games elevates Baltimore as a destination, inspires civic pride and encourages visitation by sports fans and conference guests.

Since 1992, approximately 80 million visitors have contributed to an estimated \$15.9 billion in total spending at the Camden Yards Sports Complex, with \$9.2 billion attributed to the Baltimore Orioles and \$6.7 billion attributed to the Baltimore Ravens.

Visit Baltimore supports this legislation that expands on the visionary leadership that created the Camden Yards Sports Complex.

Submitted respectfully,

Al Hutchinson President & CEO



#### **SUPPORT**

#### HB896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards HB897 - Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

April 6, 2022

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe & Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

As the sole statewide trade association dedicated to advocacy for Maryland's lodging industry, with more than 700 hotels totaling 75,000+ rooms, we support HB896 and HB897.

In order to address the long-term future of the stadiums, HB896 was introduced to increase the debt cap from \$235 million to \$1.2 billion, with \$600 million allocated to each stadium. To service the debt, the amount allocated from lottery proceeds will be capped at \$90 million from the current \$20 million. These improvements are designed to increase the economic impact of the stadiums for the State, the City, and the teams.

Companion legislation, HB897, was also introduced to create a \$200 million fund to promote the development of sports entertainment facilities across the state, including minor league stadiums where renovations will be necessary to maintain affiliations with major league teams. These minor league teams provide economic benefits to communities and promote synergies between the Orioles and their Maryland-based affiliates.

HB 896 and HB 897 would elevate the state as a sports tourism destination. Camden Yards Sports Complex is a valuable year-round community asset that helps to generate hotel stays and support jobs in Baltimore City and the surrounding areas. The minor league ballparks located in Aberdeen, Bowie, Frederick, Hagerstown, Salisbury and Waldorf do the same in those six local communities.

It is the desire of our members for these stadiums to remain competitive as best-in-class facilities to keep baseball teams and fans here in Maryland. Hotel guests spend \$5B annually throughout the state and hotels generate \$602M in state and local tax. Our industry provides great economic benefit to local communities when hotels are full. In fact, every 10 occupied rooms per night supports nearly 25 local jobs.

For the reasons expressed in this letter, we request a favorable report on HB H96 & HB 897.

Respectfully submitted, Amy Rohrer, CAE President & CEO



April 8, 2022
The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

HB896 - MARYLAND STADIUM AUTHORITY - INCREASE OF BOND AUTHORIZATION - CAMDEN YARDS

Dear Senator Guy Guzzone and Senator Rosapepe,

My name is Kristin Hanna and I am the legislative chair for the Maryland Tourism Coalition as well as the Senior Director of Marketing for Flying Dog Brewery. I am writing on behalf of Maryland Tourism Coalition today - an organization that represents tourism and hospitality businesses in Maryland. As we continue to battle the effects to COVID-19, we recognize that any support for Camden Yards will be a huge benefit to our entire eco-system. We urge you all to support increasing the debt cap listed in HB 896.

In order to address the long-term future of the stadiums, legislation was introduced to increase the debt cap from \$235 million to \$1.2 billion, with \$600 million allocated to each stadium. To service the debt, the amount allocated from lottery proceeds will be capped at \$90 million from the current \$20 million. These improvements are designed to increase the economic impact of the stadiums for the State, the City, and the teams.

Year-round events at the Camden Yards Sports Complex create jobs and generate sports, leisure and business visitor spending with the resulting tax revenues reinvested to fund essential citizen services and improve Marylander's quality of life. Positive images of our State during broadcasts of home games communicate to viewers that Maryland is 'Open for Business'.

In addition to MLB and NLF games, usage of the facilities for major motion picture and television locations, international soccer matches, college sports, concerts, V.I.P. visits, cultural festivals plus corporate events, non-profit fundraisers, graduations, proms, weddings, and family functions, further contribute to the value of the Camden Yards Sports Complex for Marylanders throughout the year.

As we compete with surrounding states to attract visitors, investing in our assets is critical. We know the resiliency of this amazing community and we look forward to your support moving forward.

Sincerely,

Kristin Hanna

Kristin Hanna
MTC Legislative Chair
Flying Dog Senior Director of Marketing
<a href="mailto:kristin.hanna@flyingdog.com">kristin.hanna@flyingdog.com</a>
480-710-2920

## JOHN MORTON, III POST OFFICE BOX 9765 ARNOLD, MARYLAND 21012

April 5, 2022

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

Re: Letter of Support - HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards To Chair Guzzone and the Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

I am John Morton III, Chairman Emeritus of the Maryland Stadium Authority, and offer my support of HB0896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards that further elevates Maryland as sports destination by investing in our award-winning facilities to maintain our professional teams and create business opportunities across the state for years to come.

The Camden Yards Sports Complex was a game changer for stadium construction, inspiring a generation of urban revitalization across the nation and serving as a catalyst for economic development for our city and state. Year-round events at the Camden Yards Sports Complex creates jobs and generates visitor spending with the resulting tax revenues reinvested to fund essential citizen services and improving Marylander's quality of life. Since 1992, by welcoming over 80 million visitors, there has been an estimated \$15.9 billion in total visitor spending at the Camden Yards Sports Complex, with \$9.2 billion attributed to the Baltimore Orioles and \$6.7 billion attributed to the Baltimore Ravens.

HB 896 before you today addresses the future of Camden Yards Sports Complex as the Orioles and the Ravens seek to renew their strong commitment to the State of Maryland and collaborate with MSA on long-term improvements over time designed to increase the economic impact of the stadiums for the state, the city, and the teams. This legislation demonstrates, through the MSA, Maryland's firm financial commitment to the Orioles and the Ravens and their respective leagues to stay and play in Maryland.

In closing, Maryland is blessed with two of the finest stadiums in Major League Baseball and the National Football League. It would be a tragedy for the State to see either one of these stadiums sit empty and without the Orioles or the Ravens. There would be a devastating economic impact on the State and the City and all Marylanders would experience immeasurable loss in the quality of life.

Maryland should not take for granted that our teams will always be with us in Baltimore or the State. Both teams have private ownership and many cities would provide significant incentives to lure the Orioles or the Ravens into relocating. To retain the teams, our responsibility is to continuously perform timely maintenance and invest in periodic apprades to retain top tier status.

Lastly, remember the Baltimore Colts.

LIM

Chairman Emeritus of the Maryland Stadium Authority

April 8, 2022

William P. Jones 4 Farview Road Baltimore MD 21212 410-206-8326

The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair Budget and Taxation Committee 3 West, Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support - HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards and HB 897 Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

To Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

I am writing this letter to demonstrate my support for HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards and HB 897 Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022. The funds that would be made available would insure that both the Baltimore Ravens and the Baltimore Orioles will remain in Baltimore Maryland for the foreseeable future.

In 1979, I joined the Orioles Designated Hitters (DH) Club, a volunteer organization whose mission was to help the Orioles establish financial stabilization through the sale of season tickets. The success of the DH Club and other factors were instrumental in Edward Bennett William's decision to keep the Orioles in Baltimore. This resulted in the formation of the Maryland Stadium Authority, the signing of a 30 year lease and the subsequent building of Oriole Park at Camden Yards.

Since 1992, by welcoming approximately 85 million visitors, there has been an estimated \$15.9 billion in total spending at the Camden Yards Sports Complex, with \$9.2 billion attributed to the Baltimore Orioles and \$6.7 billion attributed to the Baltimore Ravens. The passing of these bills will further benefit Baltimore City, the Greater Baltimore Region and the State of Maryland. The direct economic benefit will be in the tens of millions of dollars. The indirect benefits will be immeasurable. For the reasons expressed in this letter, I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 896 and HB 897 and am available for any questions that you may have.

Sincerely yours,

William P. Jones

Past President and CEO, The Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore

April 5, 2022

Harold I. Hackerman 3304 Redspire Lane Pikesville, MD 21208 HHack@ellinandtucker.com

The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair Budget and Taxation Committee 3 West, Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support - HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards and HB 897 Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

To Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

As a member of the member Orioles Designated Hitters Club (1979-present) and a member of Ravens Scouts (2019-present), a volunteer ticket sales force with the goal of bolstering the team's ticket sales efforts I support HB0896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards and its companion bill, HB0897 - Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022 that reinvests in the state's sports venues which creates jobs, generates economic benefits, encourages visitation and inspires civic pride.

The iconic Camden Yards Sports Complex resulted from visionary leadership and has been a successful investment and an important year-round entertainment and community asset for the greater Baltimore region. Furthermore, the teams stretch their influence across the state with Baltimore Orioles' minor league affiliates in Harford, Wicomico and Prince George's Counties and with the Baltimore Ravens headquarters and state-of-the-art training facility in Baltimore County. This legislation expands on that vision for the next generation and demonstrates Maryland's firm financial commitment to the Baltimore Orioles and the Baltimore Ravens and their respective leagues.

I look forward to celebrating the 30th anniversary of our beloved ballpark with the passage of HB 896 that affords an investment in the Camden Yards Sports Complex for future generations of Marylanders enjoyment and enrichment. You may reach me at any time with any questions.

Thank you,

Harold I. Hackerman

Member Orioles Designated Hitters Club (1979-present)

Member of Ravens Scouts (2019-present)

al I. Hacken

#### April 5, 2022 Robert J. Cecil

Timonium, MD 21093 Boh, Cecili@hotmail.com

The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair

3 West, Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support - HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorizat Canden Yards and HB 897 Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

To Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

As the retired Director of Sales, Hearst Broadcastina, WiBAL Radio, the lonetime flassible

station of the Orboles and Raconst radio networks, I have firsthand knowledge of the consoniinguest of our professional ports teams in the greater Baltimore region and across the state a am in support of HBH999 - Mary found Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authoritations Cannolor Yanks and in compasion Bill, 1019997 - Sports Transcriboners Pacificies Act of 2022 that it vent in our award-infecting facilities to malarian our professional teams, serve our communifies and create basiness opportunities for years to cuercia.

For 30 years, the Camden Yards Sports Complex has served as a catalyst for economic development for our city and state. Year-round events creates jobs and generates visitor spending with the resulting tax revenues reinvested to fund essential citizen services and improving Monthson for the city of this.

The positive images of our city and our state during broadcasts of home games and the

to roury passes to the growth of the Maryland Stadium Authority, the State's flem flexacial commitment to the teams as they conew their long-term agreements to stay and play in Baltimore, Maryland, For the reasons expressed in this letter, I offer my support of HB 896 and

financial commitment to the teams as they renew their long-term agreements to stay and play Bultimore, Maryland. For the reasons expressed in this letter, I offer my support of HB 896 a HB 897 and an available for any questions that you may have. Thank you,

Robert J. Cocil
Retired Director of Sales, Hearst Broadcasting, WBAL Radio, Orioles Designated Hitters Club

# FAV\_MSA\_HB896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increas Uploaded by: Thomas Kelso

Position: FAV



Larry Hogan Governor

Michael J. Frenz Executive Director

Members

Thomas E. Kelso

Leonard J. Attman Joseph C. Bryce Michael Huber Gary L. Mangum Manervia W. Riddick Jodi C. Stanalonis

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

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

#### **Maryland Stadium Authority - Letter of Support**

HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards

#### **BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE**

The Honorable, Senator, Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator, Jim Rosapepe Vice Chair

Written Testimony, Letter of Support
Thomas Kelso, Chairman, Maryland Stadium Authority
Michael J. Frenz, Executive Director, Maryland Stadium Authority

Good afternoon, Chair Guzzone and Vice Chair Rosapepe and honorable members of the Budget and Taxation Committee, I am Thomas Kelso, the Chairman with Michael J. Frenz, the Executive Director of the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) and we appreciate the opportunity to provide this written Letter of Support for HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase Of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards.

This legislation, HB 896 addresses the future of Camden Yards Sports Complex as the teams seek to renew their strong commitment to the State of Maryland and collaborate with MSA on long-term improvements over time designed to extend the useful lives of the stadiums and increase the economic impact from the stadiums for the State, the City, and the teams.

In order to address the long-term future of the stadiums, this legislation was introduced to increase the debt cap from \$235 million to \$1.2 billion, with \$600 million allocated to each stadium. To service the debt, the amount allocated from lottery proceeds will be capped at \$90 million from the current \$20 million. These improvements are designed to increase the economic impact of the stadiums for the State, the City, and the teams.

The MSA's bonding authority was last increased in 1986, this legislation seeks to modify the amount, and retains all the necessary approvals and oversight required for the MSA's projects for the past 35 years. The amount of lottery funds to be requested each year will be only the amount needed for the outstanding debt service, not the full amount.

MSA continues to work with both the Baltimore Orioles and Baltimore Ravens in order to ensure that the stadiums remain best-in-class facilities in terms of safety and fan experience. The creative approach contained in this legislation allows the MSA to work with each team individually to develop, design and construct improvements that will increase returns for them and for the State and City. The MSA believes that our ability to work continuously with each team simultaneously to invest in the stadiums is a critical element to the successful negotiation of agreements that will retain them in Baltimore.

The Camden Yards Sports Complex was the result of visionary leadership and has been a successful investment for the City of Baltimore and the State of Maryland and an important year-round community asset. With this legislation, the State of Maryland, through the MSA, will further that vision for the next generation and expand the exemplary economic development partnerships with both professional teams.

As stadium and fan experience trends evolve, this legislation creates an evergreen and flexible fund for both innovative revenue-generating improvements that align with the teams' long-term needs and all of the necessary infrastructure investments required to keep our stadiums competitive. The success of this proposed legislation, and the continuing investments it affords will help ensure the longevity and prosperity of the Camden Yards Sports Complex long into the future.

Since 1992, there has been approximately \$15.9 billion in total spending at the Camden Yards Sports Complex, with \$9.2 billion attributed to the Baltimore Orioles and \$6.7 billion attributed to the Baltimore Ravens. Based on tax revenues of a \$1 billion, less \$670 million in debt service in bonds issued to build the Camden Yards Sports Complex, the State of Maryland has earned a \$330 million return on its investment.

Since 1992	Orioles	Ravens
Approximately 85 million visitors	70 million	15 million
Approximately \$15.9 billion in total spending	\$9.2 billion	\$6.7 billion
Approximately 4,000 jobs each year	2,400	1,600
Approximately \$8.3 billion in employee earnings	\$4.8 billion	\$3.5 billion
Approximately \$1.0 billion in state revenues	\$0.6 billion	\$0.4 billion
Approximately \$670 million in debt service	\$0.45 billion Oriole Park at Camden Yards	\$0.22 billion M&T Bank Stadium

In closing, this legislation demonstrates, through the MSA, Maryland's firm financial commitment to the Baltimore Orioles and the Baltimore Ravens and their respective leagues to remain in our State at the Camden Yards Sports Complex for many years to come. For the reasons expressed in this letter, we request a favorable report on HB 896.



Office of Government Relations 88 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**HB 896** 

April 8, 2022

**TO:** Members of the Senate Budget and Tax Committee

**FROM:** Natasha Mehu, Director, Office of Government Relations

**RE:** House Bill 896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization -

Camden Yards

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 896.

HB 896 would increase the caps on debt issuance and debt service amounts for the Camden Yards Sports Complex, which includes Oriole Park at Camden Yards and M&T Bank Stadium, to enable necessary investments in and redevelopment of the site. The Camden Yards Sports Complex is an important source of entertainment, jobs, tourism, and associated revenue for not only Baltimore City but the State of Maryland. Ensuring the complex can be not only renovated but reimagined for the continued enjoyment of our residents is important to the Scott Administration.

Year-round events at the Camden Yards Sports Complex create jobs and generate sports, leisure, and business visitor spending with the resulting tax revenues reinvested to fund essential citizen services and improve Marylander's quality of life. Positive images of our City during broadcasts of home games communicate to viewers that Maryland is open for both business and leisure.

The complex provides significant value to all Marylanders. In addition to MLB and NLF games, facilities are also used year-round for major motion picture and television locations, international soccer matches, college sports, concerts, V.I.P. visits, cultural festivals plus corporate events, non-profit fundraisers, graduations, proms, weddings, and family functions. In the event of severe weather events, the Camden Yards Sports Complex houses emergency crews, their



The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair Budget and Taxation Committee 3 West Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB0896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to enthusiastically submit support HB896 on behalf of the Downtown Partnership of Baltimore (DPOB) and its Board of Directors. The Business Community created DPOB in 1983 to foster a clean, safe, and welcoming environment for residents, businesses, and tourists. DPOB is represented by more than ninety-one prominent businesses and community stakeholders on its board and 650 members.

While Downtown has its challenges, our momentum over the past 18 months is trending in the right direction and essential to the economic vitality of the City. The Administration's commitment to relocating the state agencies to the core of Downtown was a much-needed catalyst. Results of an economic impact study on the traditional core by economic development expert, Richard Clinch, PhD, highlighted Downtown as the economic driver of the city, while also noting the need to update infrastructure and increase amenities to support the anticipated growth.

The development of the Camden Yards Sports Complex was visionary and inspired a generation of urban revitalization across the nation. With its national prominence, the complex welcomes sports and entertainment experiences that help make Baltimore a destination of choice. As a result, Downtown receives incredible economic benefits with impact beyond the field and into nearby restaurants, hotels, and office suites. The stadiums provide access to amenities that residents, visitors, and businesses want while injecting vitality into our urban core. This is no time, given our history, to take our two stadiums for granted. We must go forward with vision as we did 30 years ago!

The Downtown Partnership of Baltimore staff and board understand the value of HB0896, which increases the caps on debt issuance and debt service amounts for the Camden Yards Sports Complex. Passage of this legislation will incentivize the Orioles and Ravens to renew their commitments to the State of Maryland and provide resources to increase the already significant economic impacts of the stadiums. This legislation demonstrates Maryland's financial commitment to the teams and their leagues for them to remain in the State for years to come. And this legislation also highlights the State's commitment to investing in the City of Baltimore and all of us who call home, work, or a great place to visit.

If you have any questions or require anything additional, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Shelonda Stokes

Shelonda Stakes

President

Downtown Partnership of Baltimore

vehicles, and equipment, plus the Maryland National Guard for any humanitarian relief as necessary. During the especially challenging times of the pandemic, the Camden Yards Sports Complex was transformed into a food relief hub, voting center, testing, and mass vaccination site, serving Marylanders in their greatest time of need.

The time is now to holistically redevelop Camden as the MSA, the Baltimore Orioles, and the Baltimore Ravens reimagining the Camden Yards Sports Complex as the teams seek to renew their strong commitment to the State of Maryland. These stakeholders function as economic development partners with the shared goal of funding facility infrastructure and fan-friendly improvements, while creating a business environment for continued success.

The iconic Camden Yards Sports Complex resulted from visionary leadership and has been a successful investment and an important year-round entertainment and community asset for Maryland. This legislation expands on that vision for the next generation and demonstrates Maryland's firm financial commitment to the Baltimore Orioles and the Baltimore Ravens and their respective leagues. We hope this legislation can ensure that the Camden Yards Sports Complex remains a top destination for future generations of Marylanders' enjoyment and enrichment.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 896.



April 5, 2022

The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB0896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards
HB0987 - Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

Dear Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore (EAGB), I am writing to register our strong support for HB0896. The legislation will increase the cap on debt issuance and debt service from the current limit of \$235M to \$1.2B to be used to improve and enhance the facilities within the Camden Yards Sports Complex. By providing the resources needed for Oriole Park and M&T Stadium to remain competitive top-of-class homes for the Orioles and the Ravens, the State of Maryland will demonstrate their commitment to keeping the teams in Baltimore for years to come.

EAGB is a regional business organization dedicated to marketing the economic assets of the Greater Baltimore region, elevating the Region to a location of choice for employment, investment, and business location. We work in collaboration with our board members and other stakeholders to help catalyze economic opportunities and create pathways that enable residents throughout the region to be able to take advantage of these opportunities.

EAGB's member jurisdictions – Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Howard, Cecil, Carroll, Harford and Baltimore Counties – collaborate on programs and activities that celebrate the strengths of the entire Region, recognizing that the assets of one jurisdiction benefit the others and that Baltimore City is the heart of the Region. A vibrant Camden Yards as the home of two



major league teams is a major asset for the entire Region and a critical element of the City's economic health and vitality.

The Camden Yards Sports Complex was a game changer for stadium development as a catalyst for urban revitalization across the country. More importantly, for over three decades Camden Yards has been a catalyst for economic development resulting in significant economic benefits for Baltimore City, the Greater Baltimore region and the State. This legislation, once passed, will continue this tradition of visionary and future-focused leadership

We also urge approval of HB0897, as amended. Authorizing the Maryland Stadium Authority to issue bonds to assist in advancing the sports and sports entertainment industries throughout the State by financing the acquisition, design and construction of facilities needed for these industries to grow will bring significant direct and indirect economic benefits to the Greater Baltimore region and the entire State.

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and members of the Committee, we urge you to approve HB0896 and HB897. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Respectfully,

Michele Whelley President & CEO

CC: EAGB Board of Directors

List Attached



# **2022 EAGB BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **OFFICERS**

CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield: Brian Pieninck, President & CEO – Chair of the Board Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore: Michele Whelley – President & CEO Ellin & Tucker, Chartered: Edwin R. Brake, Managing Director & CEO – Treasurer Whiteford Taylor Preston LLP: Martin T. Fletcher, Managing Partner – Secretary of Counsel

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Johns Hopkins University: Christy Wyskiel, Senior Advisor to the President

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Howard Community College: Dr. Daria Willis, President

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Howard County Government: Calvin Ball, County Executive The Howard Hughes Corporation: Greg Fitchitt, President

LifeBridge Health, Neil Meltzer, President & CEO

Loyola University of Maryland: John Coppola, VP - Finance and Administration/Treasurer

1200 Steuart Street, Unit C1B, Baltimore, MD 21230



Maryland Department of Commerce: Mike Gill, Secretary

Miles & Stockbridge: Nancy Greene, Chair

Morgan Stanley: John DeLong, Managing Director

Morgan State University: Dr. David Kwabena Wilson, President

NetCraftsmen: Paul Mauritz, President & CEO

PNC Bank: George von Zedlitz, SVP – Marketing Managing Director

RSM: Art Yonowitz, Partner – Tax Services

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Tradepoint Atlantic: Aaron Tomarchio, Executive Vice President of Corporate Affairs

Truist: Gregory Farno, President – Maryland Region UMBC Training Centers: Jon Lau, President & CTO

University System of Maryland: Dr. Jay Perman, Chancellor

Verizon Communications: Eric Reed, Vice President – Public Policy & Local Engagement

Wells Fargo: Derek Lynch, Senior Vice President, Commercial Banking Leader

### **NON-VOTING DIRECTORS**

Cybersecurity Association of Maryland: Chris Sachse, CEO, Think | Stack

Cybersecurity Association of Maryland: Shelley Lombardo, COO, Evergreen Advisors

Maryland Tech Council: Todd Marks (Chair of MTC), President & CEO - Mindgrub

Regional Manufacturing Institute: Michael Galiazzo, President

U.S. House of Representatives: Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger - <u>Director Emeritus</u>



400 E PRATT ST, 10TH FLOOR BALTIMORE, MD 21202

BALTIMORE.ORG

#### **HB896**

April 7, 2022

TO: Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

FROM: Al Hutchinson, President & CEO, Visit Baltimore

RE: HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization Camden Yards

POSITION: SUPPORT

Honorable Chair Guzzone, and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

Visit Baltimore **supports HB896** Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization Camden Yards.

Visit Baltimore, the official destination marketing organization of Baltimore, supports the reinvestment in the Camden Yards Sports Complex that creates jobs and generates economic benefits to our city from business and leisure travelers throughout the year.

The iconic Camden Yards Sports Complex in Baltimore, which includes Oriole Park and M&T Bank Stadium, is one of the most recognizable landmarks and attractions in Maryland. Positive media impressions during game day telecasts, especially during All Star and play-off games elevates Baltimore as a destination, inspires civic pride and encourages visitation by sports fans and conference guests.

Since 1992, approximately 80 million visitors have contributed to an estimated \$15.9 billion in total spending at the Camden Yards Sports Complex, with \$9.2 billion attributed to the Baltimore Orioles and \$6.7 billion attributed to the Baltimore Ravens.

Visit Baltimore supports this legislation that expands on the visionary leadership that created the Camden Yards Sports Complex.

Submitted respectfully,

Al Hutchinson President & CEO



#### **SUPPORT**

#### HB896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards HB897 - Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

April 6, 2022

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe & Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

As the sole statewide trade association dedicated to advocacy for Maryland's lodging industry, with more than 700 hotels totaling 75,000+ rooms, we support HB896 and HB897.

In order to address the long-term future of the stadiums, HB896 was introduced to increase the debt cap from \$235 million to \$1.2 billion, with \$600 million allocated to each stadium. To service the debt, the amount allocated from lottery proceeds will be capped at \$90 million from the current \$20 million. These improvements are designed to increase the economic impact of the stadiums for the State, the City, and the teams.

Companion legislation, HB897, was also introduced to create a \$200 million fund to promote the development of sports entertainment facilities across the state, including minor league stadiums where renovations will be necessary to maintain affiliations with major league teams. These minor league teams provide economic benefits to communities and promote synergies between the Orioles and their Maryland-based affiliates.

HB 896 and HB 897 would elevate the state as a sports tourism destination. Camden Yards Sports Complex is a valuable year-round community asset that helps to generate hotel stays and support jobs in Baltimore City and the surrounding areas. The minor league ballparks located in Aberdeen, Bowie, Frederick, Hagerstown, Salisbury and Waldorf do the same in those six local communities.

It is the desire of our members for these stadiums to remain competitive as best-in-class facilities to keep baseball teams and fans here in Maryland. Hotel guests spend \$5B annually throughout the state and hotels generate \$602M in state and local tax. Our industry provides great economic benefit to local communities when hotels are full. In fact, every 10 occupied rooms per night supports nearly 25 local jobs.

For the reasons expressed in this letter, we request a favorable report on HB H96 & HB 897.

Respectfully submitted, Amy Rohrer, CAE President & CEO



April 8, 2022
The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

HB896 - MARYLAND STADIUM AUTHORITY - INCREASE OF BOND AUTHORIZATION - CAMDEN YARDS

Dear Senator Guy Guzzone and Senator Rosapepe,

My name is Kristin Hanna and I am the legislative chair for the Maryland Tourism Coalition as well as the Senior Director of Marketing for Flying Dog Brewery. I am writing on behalf of Maryland Tourism Coalition today - an organization that represents tourism and hospitality businesses in Maryland. As we continue to battle the effects to COVID-19, we recognize that any support for Camden Yards will be a huge benefit to our entire eco-system. We urge you all to support increasing the debt cap listed in HB 896.

In order to address the long-term future of the stadiums, legislation was introduced to increase the debt cap from \$235 million to \$1.2 billion, with \$600 million allocated to each stadium. To service the debt, the amount allocated from lottery proceeds will be capped at \$90 million from the current \$20 million. These improvements are designed to increase the economic impact of the stadiums for the State, the City, and the teams.

Year-round events at the Camden Yards Sports Complex create jobs and generate sports, leisure and business visitor spending with the resulting tax revenues reinvested to fund essential citizen services and improve Marylander's quality of life. Positive images of our State during broadcasts of home games communicate to viewers that Maryland is 'Open for Business'.

In addition to MLB and NLF games, usage of the facilities for major motion picture and television locations, international soccer matches, college sports, concerts, V.I.P. visits, cultural festivals plus corporate events, non-profit fundraisers, graduations, proms, weddings, and family functions, further contribute to the value of the Camden Yards Sports Complex for Marylanders throughout the year.

As we compete with surrounding states to attract visitors, investing in our assets is critical. We know the resiliency of this amazing community and we look forward to your support moving forward.

Sincerely,

Kristin Hanna

Kristin Hanna
MTC Legislative Chair
Flying Dog Senior Director of Marketing
<a href="mailto:kristin.hanna@flyingdog.com">kristin.hanna@flyingdog.com</a>
480-710-2920

# JOHN MORTON, III POST OFFICE BOX 9765 ARNOLD, MARYLAND 21012

April 5, 2022

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

Re: Letter of Support - HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards To Chair Guzzone and the Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

I am John Morton III, Chairman Emeritus of the Maryland Stadium Authority, and offer my support of HB0896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards that further elevates Maryland as sports destination by investing in our award-winning facilities to maintain our professional teams and create business opportunities across the state for years to come.

The Camden Yards Sports Complex was a game changer for stadium construction, inspiring a generation of urban revitalization across the nation and serving as a catalyst for economic development for our city and state. Year-round events at the Camden Yards Sports Complex creates jobs and generates visitor spending with the resulting tax revenues reinvested to fund essential citizen services and improving Marylander's quality of life. Since 1992, by welcoming over 80 million visitors, there has been an estimated \$15.9 billion in total visitor spending at the Camden Yards Sports Complex, with \$9.2 billion attributed to the Baltimore Orioles and \$6.7 billion attributed to the Baltimore Ravens.

HB 896 before you today addresses the future of Camden Yards Sports Complex as the Orioles and the Ravens seek to renew their strong commitment to the State of Maryland and collaborate with MSA on long-term improvements over time designed to increase the economic impact of the stadiums for the state, the city, and the teams. This legislation demonstrates, through the MSA, Maryland's firm financial commitment to the Orioles and the Ravens and their respective leagues to stay and play in Maryland.

In closing, Maryland is blessed with two of the finest stadiums in Major League Baseball and the National Football League. It would be a tragedy for the State to see either one of these stadiums sit empty and without the Orioles or the Ravens. There would be a devastating economic impact on the State and the City and all Marylanders would experience immeasurable loss in the quality of life.

Maryland should not take for granted that our teams will always be with us in Baltimore or the State. Both teams have private ownership and many cities would provide significant incentives to lure the Orioles or the Ravens into relocating. To retain the teams, our responsibility is to continuously perform timely maintenance and invest in periodic apprades to retain top tier status.

Lastly, remember the Baltimore Colts.

Chairman Emeritus of the Maryland Stadium Authority

April 8, 2022

William P. Jones 4 Farview Road Baltimore MD 21212 410-206-8326

The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair Budget and Taxation Committee 3 West, Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support - HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards and HB 897 Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

To Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

I am writing this letter to demonstrate my support for HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards and HB 897 Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022. The funds that would be made available would insure that both the Baltimore Ravens and the Baltimore Orioles will remain in Baltimore Maryland for the foreseeable future.

In 1979, I joined the Orioles Designated Hitters (DH) Club, a volunteer organization whose mission was to help the Orioles establish financial stabilization through the sale of season tickets. The success of the DH Club and other factors were instrumental in Edward Bennett William's decision to keep the Orioles in Baltimore. This resulted in the formation of the Maryland Stadium Authority, the signing of a 30 year lease and the subsequent building of Oriole Park at Camden Yards.

Since 1992, by welcoming approximately 85 million visitors, there has been an estimated \$15.9 billion in total spending at the Camden Yards Sports Complex, with \$9.2 billion attributed to the Baltimore Orioles and \$6.7 billion attributed to the Baltimore Ravens. The passing of these bills will further benefit Baltimore City, the Greater Baltimore Region and the State of Maryland. The direct economic benefit will be in the tens of millions of dollars. The indirect benefits will be immeasurable. For the reasons expressed in this letter, I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 896 and HB 897 and am available for any questions that you may have.

Sincerely yours,

William P. Jones

Past President and CEO, The Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore

April 5, 2022

Harold I. Hackerman 3304 Redspire Lane Pikesville, MD 21208 HHack@ellinandtucker.com

The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair Budget and Taxation Committee 3 West, Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support - HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards and HB 897 Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

To Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

As a member of the member Orioles Designated Hitters Club (1979-present) and a member of Ravens Scouts (2019-present), a volunteer ticket sales force with the goal of bolstering the team's ticket sales efforts I support HB0896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards and its companion bill, HB0897 - Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022 that reinvests in the state's sports venues which creates jobs, generates economic benefits, encourages visitation and inspires civic pride.

The iconic Camden Yards Sports Complex resulted from visionary leadership and has been a successful investment and an important year-round entertainment and community asset for the greater Baltimore region. Furthermore, the teams stretch their influence across the state with Baltimore Orioles' minor league affiliates in Harford, Wicomico and Prince George's Counties and with the Baltimore Ravens headquarters and state-of-the-art training facility in Baltimore County. This legislation expands on that vision for the next generation and demonstrates Maryland's firm financial commitment to the Baltimore Orioles and the Baltimore Ravens and their respective leagues.

I look forward to celebrating the 30th anniversary of our beloved ballpark with the passage of HB 896 that affords an investment in the Camden Yards Sports Complex for future generations of Marylanders enjoyment and enrichment. You may reach me at any time with any questions.

Thank you,

Harold I. Hackerman

Member Orioles Designated Hitters Club (1979-present)

Member of Ravens Scouts (2019-present)

al I. Hacken

#### Robert J. Cecil

Timonium, MD 21093 Bob.Cecili@hotmail.com

The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair

3 West, Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support - HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorizat Camden Yards and HB 897 Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

To Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation

As the referred Director of Safes, Hannel Broudcastrating, WHAE, Radio, the longitime flagshipstation of the Oriolas and Resource and noneworks, I have findament knowledge of the expension impact of our professional sports tenns in the greater Bultimore region and across the sisten as common tensor of the sistens of the

For 10 years, the Camden Yards Sports Complex has served as a catalyst for economic development for our city and state. Year-round events creates jobs and generates visitor spending with the resulting tax revenues reinvested to fund essential citizen services and improving.

The positive images of our city and our state during broadcasts of home games and the

In closing, HIB 896 demonstrates, through the Maryland Stadium Authority, the State's flem financial commitment to the teams as they renew their long-term agreements to stay and play in Baltimore, Maryland. For the reasons expressed in this letter, I offer my support of HB 896 and

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Thank you,

Retired Director of Sales, Hearst Broadcasting, WBAL Radio, Orioles Designated Hitters Club

# FAV\_MSA\_HB896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increas Uploaded by: Thomas Kelso

Position: FAV



Larry Hogan Governor

Michael J. Frenz Executive Director

Members

Thomas E. Kelso

Leonard J. Attman Joseph C. Bryce Michael Huber Gary L. Mangum Manervia W. Riddick Jodi C. Stanalonis

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

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

### **Maryland Stadium Authority - Letter of Support**

HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards

#### **BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE**

The Honorable, Senator, Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator, Jim Rosapepe Vice Chair

Written Testimony, Letter of Support
Thomas Kelso, Chairman, Maryland Stadium Authority
Michael J. Frenz, Executive Director, Maryland Stadium Authority

Good afternoon, Chair Guzzone and Vice Chair Rosapepe and honorable members of the Budget and Taxation Committee, I am Thomas Kelso, the Chairman with Michael J. Frenz, the Executive Director of the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) and we appreciate the opportunity to provide this written Letter of Support for HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase Of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards.

This legislation, HB 896 addresses the future of Camden Yards Sports Complex as the teams seek to renew their strong commitment to the State of Maryland and collaborate with MSA on long-term improvements over time designed to extend the useful lives of the stadiums and increase the economic impact from the stadiums for the State, the City, and the teams.

In order to address the long-term future of the stadiums, this legislation was introduced to increase the debt cap from \$235 million to \$1.2 billion, with \$600 million allocated to each stadium. To service the debt, the amount allocated from lottery proceeds will be capped at \$90 million from the current \$20 million. These improvements are designed to increase the economic impact of the stadiums for the State, the City, and the teams.

The MSA's bonding authority was last increased in 1986, this legislation seeks to modify the amount, and retains all the necessary approvals and oversight required for the MSA's projects for the past 35 years. The amount of lottery funds to be requested each year will be only the amount needed for the outstanding debt service, not the full amount.

MSA continues to work with both the Baltimore Orioles and Baltimore Ravens in order to ensure that the stadiums remain best-in-class facilities in terms of safety and fan experience. The creative approach contained in this legislation allows the MSA to work with each team individually to develop, design and construct improvements that will increase returns for them and for the State and City. The MSA believes that our ability to work continuously with each team simultaneously to invest in the stadiums is a critical element to the successful negotiation of agreements that will retain them in Baltimore.

The Camden Yards Sports Complex was the result of visionary leadership and has been a successful investment for the City of Baltimore and the State of Maryland and an important year-round community asset. With this legislation, the State of Maryland, through the MSA, will further that vision for the next generation and expand the exemplary economic development partnerships with both professional teams.

As stadium and fan experience trends evolve, this legislation creates an evergreen and flexible fund for both innovative revenue-generating improvements that align with the teams' long-term needs and all of the necessary infrastructure investments required to keep our stadiums competitive. The success of this proposed legislation, and the continuing investments it affords will help ensure the longevity and prosperity of the Camden Yards Sports Complex long into the future.

Since 1992, there has been approximately \$15.9 billion in total spending at the Camden Yards Sports Complex, with \$9.2 billion attributed to the Baltimore Orioles and \$6.7 billion attributed to the Baltimore Ravens. Based on tax revenues of a \$1 billion, less \$670 million in debt service in bonds issued to build the Camden Yards Sports Complex, the State of Maryland has earned a \$330 million return on its investment.

Since 1992	Orioles	Ravens
Approximately 85 million visitors	70 million	15 million
Approximately \$15.9 billion in total spending	\$9.2 billion	\$6.7 billion
Approximately 4,000 jobs each year	2,400	1,600
Approximately \$8.3 billion in employee earnings	\$4.8 billion	\$3.5 billion
Approximately \$1.0 billion in state revenues	\$0.6 billion	\$0.4 billion
Approximately \$670 million in debt service	\$0.45 billion Oriole Park at Camden Yards	\$0.22 billion M&T Bank Stadium

In closing, this legislation demonstrates, through the MSA, Maryland's firm financial commitment to the Baltimore Orioles and the Baltimore Ravens and their respective leagues to remain in our State at the Camden Yards Sports Complex for many years to come. For the reasons expressed in this letter, we request a favorable report on HB 896.



Office of Government Relations 88 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**HB 896** 

April 8, 2022

**TO:** Members of the Senate Budget and Tax Committee

**FROM:** Natasha Mehu, Director, Office of Government Relations

**RE:** House Bill 896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization -

Camden Yards

POSITION: SUPPORT

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 896.

HB 896 would increase the caps on debt issuance and debt service amounts for the Camden Yards Sports Complex, which includes Oriole Park at Camden Yards and M&T Bank Stadium, to enable necessary investments in and redevelopment of the site. The Camden Yards Sports Complex is an important source of entertainment, jobs, tourism, and associated revenue for not only Baltimore City but the State of Maryland. Ensuring the complex can be not only renovated but reimagined for the continued enjoyment of our residents is important to the Scott Administration.

Year-round events at the Camden Yards Sports Complex create jobs and generate sports, leisure, and business visitor spending with the resulting tax revenues reinvested to fund essential citizen services and improve Marylander's quality of life. Positive images of our City during broadcasts of home games communicate to viewers that Maryland is open for both business and leisure.

The complex provides significant value to all Marylanders. In addition to MLB and NLF games, facilities are also used year-round for major motion picture and television locations, international soccer matches, college sports, concerts, V.I.P. visits, cultural festivals plus corporate events, non-profit fundraisers, graduations, proms, weddings, and family functions. In the event of severe weather events, the Camden Yards Sports Complex houses emergency crews, their



The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair Budget and Taxation Committee 3 West Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB0896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to enthusiastically submit support HB896 on behalf of the Downtown Partnership of Baltimore (DPOB) and its Board of Directors. The Business Community created DPOB in 1983 to foster a clean, safe, and welcoming environment for residents, businesses, and tourists. DPOB is represented by more than ninety-one prominent businesses and community stakeholders on its board and 650 members.

While Downtown has its challenges, our momentum over the past 18 months is trending in the right direction and essential to the economic vitality of the City. The Administration's commitment to relocating the state agencies to the core of Downtown was a much-needed catalyst. Results of an economic impact study on the traditional core by economic development expert, Richard Clinch, PhD, highlighted Downtown as the economic driver of the city, while also noting the need to update infrastructure and increase amenities to support the anticipated growth.

The development of the Camden Yards Sports Complex was visionary and inspired a generation of urban revitalization across the nation. With its national prominence, the complex welcomes sports and entertainment experiences that help make Baltimore a destination of choice. As a result, Downtown receives incredible economic benefits with impact beyond the field and into nearby restaurants, hotels, and office suites. The stadiums provide access to amenities that residents, visitors, and businesses want while injecting vitality into our urban core. This is no time, given our history, to take our two stadiums for granted. We must go forward with vision as we did 30 years ago!

The Downtown Partnership of Baltimore staff and board understand the value of HB0896, which increases the caps on debt issuance and debt service amounts for the Camden Yards Sports Complex. Passage of this legislation will incentivize the Orioles and Ravens to renew their commitments to the State of Maryland and provide resources to increase the already significant economic impacts of the stadiums. This legislation demonstrates Maryland's financial commitment to the teams and their leagues for them to remain in the State for years to come. And this legislation also highlights the State's commitment to investing in the City of Baltimore and all of us who call home, work, or a great place to visit.

If you have any questions or require anything additional, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Shelonda Stokes

Shelonda Stakes

President

Downtown Partnership of Baltimore

vehicles, and equipment, plus the Maryland National Guard for any humanitarian relief as necessary. During the especially challenging times of the pandemic, the Camden Yards Sports Complex was transformed into a food relief hub, voting center, testing, and mass vaccination site, serving Marylanders in their greatest time of need.

The time is now to holistically redevelop Camden as the MSA, the Baltimore Orioles, and the Baltimore Ravens reimagining the Camden Yards Sports Complex as the teams seek to renew their strong commitment to the State of Maryland. These stakeholders function as economic development partners with the shared goal of funding facility infrastructure and fan-friendly improvements, while creating a business environment for continued success.

The iconic Camden Yards Sports Complex resulted from visionary leadership and has been a successful investment and an important year-round entertainment and community asset for Maryland. This legislation expands on that vision for the next generation and demonstrates Maryland's firm financial commitment to the Baltimore Orioles and the Baltimore Ravens and their respective leagues. We hope this legislation can ensure that the Camden Yards Sports Complex remains a top destination for future generations of Marylanders' enjoyment and enrichment.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on HB 896.



April 5, 2022

The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB0896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards
HB0987 - Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

Dear Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore (EAGB), I am writing to register our strong support for HB0896. The legislation will increase the cap on debt issuance and debt service from the current limit of \$235M to \$1.2B to be used to improve and enhance the facilities within the Camden Yards Sports Complex. By providing the resources needed for Oriole Park and M&T Stadium to remain competitive top-of-class homes for the Orioles and the Ravens, the State of Maryland will demonstrate their commitment to keeping the teams in Baltimore for years to come.

EAGB is a regional business organization dedicated to marketing the economic assets of the Greater Baltimore region, elevating the Region to a location of choice for employment, investment, and business location. We work in collaboration with our board members and other stakeholders to help catalyze economic opportunities and create pathways that enable residents throughout the region to be able to take advantage of these opportunities.

EAGB's member jurisdictions – Baltimore City and Anne Arundel, Howard, Cecil, Carroll, Harford and Baltimore Counties – collaborate on programs and activities that celebrate the strengths of the entire Region, recognizing that the assets of one jurisdiction benefit the others and that Baltimore City is the heart of the Region. A vibrant Camden Yards as the home of two



major league teams is a major asset for the entire Region and a critical element of the City's economic health and vitality.

The Camden Yards Sports Complex was a game changer for stadium development as a catalyst for urban revitalization across the country. More importantly, for over three decades Camden Yards has been a catalyst for economic development resulting in significant economic benefits for Baltimore City, the Greater Baltimore region and the State. This legislation, once passed, will continue this tradition of visionary and future-focused leadership

We also urge approval of HB0897, as amended. Authorizing the Maryland Stadium Authority to issue bonds to assist in advancing the sports and sports entertainment industries throughout the State by financing the acquisition, design and construction of facilities needed for these industries to grow will bring significant direct and indirect economic benefits to the Greater Baltimore region and the entire State.

Mr. Chair, Mr. Vice Chair, and members of the Committee, we urge you to approve HB0896 and HB897. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Respectfully,

Michele Whelley President & CEO

CC: EAGB Board of Directors

List Attached



# **2022 EAGB BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **OFFICERS**

CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield: Brian Pieninck, President & CEO – Chair of the Board Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore: Michele Whelley – President & CEO Ellin & Tucker, Chartered: Edwin R. Brake, Managing Director & CEO – Treasurer Whiteford Taylor Preston LLP: Martin T. Fletcher, Managing Partner – Secretary of Counsel

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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Baltimore Gas & Electric Company, an Exelon Company: Carim Khouzami, Chief Executive Officer

Bank of America: Janet Currie, Greater Maryland Market President

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Evergreen Advisors: Rick Kohr, Chief Executive Officer

Johns Hopkins University: Christy Wyskiel, Senior Advisor to the President

M&T Bank: August J. Chiasera, Regional President – Greater Baltimore/Chesapeake

Towson University: Kim Schatzel, President

Venable LLP: Stacie Tobin, Partner

Whiting Turner Contracting Company: Frank Palmer, Executive Vice President

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Baltimore City Government: Brandon Scott, Mayor

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Catalyte: Jacob Hsu, CEO

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The Daily Record: Suzanne Fischer-Huettner, Group Publisher

**Duane Morris, LLP:** Bruce Jurist, Partner **Ernst & Young:** Steve Canaras, Partner

Exelon: Calvin Butler, Senior Executive Vice President & COO

First National Bank: J. MacGregor Tisdale, President – Maryland Region

Howard Community College: Dr. Daria Willis, President

Harford County Government: Barry Glassman, County Executive

Howard County Economic & Development Authority: Lawrence Twele, CEO (Chair, Advisory Committee)

Howard County Government: Calvin Ball, County Executive The Howard Hughes Corporation: Greg Fitchitt, President

LifeBridge Health, Neil Meltzer, President & CEO

Loyola University of Maryland: John Coppola, VP - Finance and Administration/Treasurer

1200 Steuart Street, Unit C1B, Baltimore, MD 21230



Maryland Department of Commerce: Mike Gill, Secretary

Miles & Stockbridge: Nancy Greene, Chair

Morgan Stanley: John DeLong, Managing Director

Morgan State University: Dr. David Kwabena Wilson, President

NetCraftsmen: Paul Mauritz, President & CEO

PNC Bank: George von Zedlitz, SVP – Marketing Managing Director

RSM: Art Yonowitz, Partner – Tax Services

St. John Properties: Andrew Roud, Regional Partner

Tradepoint Atlantic: Aaron Tomarchio, Executive Vice President of Corporate Affairs

Truist: Gregory Farno, President – Maryland Region UMBC Training Centers: Jon Lau, President & CTO

University System of Maryland: Dr. Jay Perman, Chancellor

Verizon Communications: Eric Reed, Vice President – Public Policy & Local Engagement

Wells Fargo: Derek Lynch, Senior Vice President, Commercial Banking Leader

## **NON-VOTING DIRECTORS**

Cybersecurity Association of Maryland: Chris Sachse, CEO, Think | Stack

Cybersecurity Association of Maryland: Shelley Lombardo, COO, Evergreen Advisors

Maryland Tech Council: Todd Marks (Chair of MTC), President & CEO - Mindgrub

Regional Manufacturing Institute: Michael Galiazzo, President

U.S. House of Representatives: Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger - <u>Director Emeritus</u>



400 E PRATT ST, 10TH FLOOR BALTIMORE, MD 21202

BALTIMORE.ORG

#### **HB896**

April 7, 2022

TO: Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

FROM: Al Hutchinson, President & CEO, Visit Baltimore

RE: HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization Camden Yards

POSITION: SUPPORT

Honorable Chair Guzzone, and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee,

Visit Baltimore **supports HB896** Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization Camden Yards.

Visit Baltimore, the official destination marketing organization of Baltimore, supports the reinvestment in the Camden Yards Sports Complex that creates jobs and generates economic benefits to our city from business and leisure travelers throughout the year.

The iconic Camden Yards Sports Complex in Baltimore, which includes Oriole Park and M&T Bank Stadium, is one of the most recognizable landmarks and attractions in Maryland. Positive media impressions during game day telecasts, especially during All Star and play-off games elevates Baltimore as a destination, inspires civic pride and encourages visitation by sports fans and conference guests.

Since 1992, approximately 80 million visitors have contributed to an estimated \$15.9 billion in total spending at the Camden Yards Sports Complex, with \$9.2 billion attributed to the Baltimore Orioles and \$6.7 billion attributed to the Baltimore Ravens.

Visit Baltimore supports this legislation that expands on the visionary leadership that created the Camden Yards Sports Complex.

Submitted respectfully,

Al Hutchinson President & CEO



#### **SUPPORT**

#### HB896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards HB897 - Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

April 6, 2022

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe & Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

As the sole statewide trade association dedicated to advocacy for Maryland's lodging industry, with more than 700 hotels totaling 75,000+ rooms, we support HB896 and HB897.

In order to address the long-term future of the stadiums, HB896 was introduced to increase the debt cap from \$235 million to \$1.2 billion, with \$600 million allocated to each stadium. To service the debt, the amount allocated from lottery proceeds will be capped at \$90 million from the current \$20 million. These improvements are designed to increase the economic impact of the stadiums for the State, the City, and the teams.

Companion legislation, HB897, was also introduced to create a \$200 million fund to promote the development of sports entertainment facilities across the state, including minor league stadiums where renovations will be necessary to maintain affiliations with major league teams. These minor league teams provide economic benefits to communities and promote synergies between the Orioles and their Maryland-based affiliates.

HB 896 and HB 897 would elevate the state as a sports tourism destination. Camden Yards Sports Complex is a valuable year-round community asset that helps to generate hotel stays and support jobs in Baltimore City and the surrounding areas. The minor league ballparks located in Aberdeen, Bowie, Frederick, Hagerstown, Salisbury and Waldorf do the same in those six local communities.

It is the desire of our members for these stadiums to remain competitive as best-in-class facilities to keep baseball teams and fans here in Maryland. Hotel guests spend \$5B annually throughout the state and hotels generate \$602M in state and local tax. Our industry provides great economic benefit to local communities when hotels are full. In fact, every 10 occupied rooms per night supports nearly 25 local jobs.

For the reasons expressed in this letter, we request a favorable report on HB H96 & HB 897.

Respectfully submitted, Amy Rohrer, CAE President & CEO



April 8, 2022
The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair
The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

HB896 - MARYLAND STADIUM AUTHORITY - INCREASE OF BOND AUTHORIZATION - CAMDEN YARDS

Dear Senator Guy Guzzone and Senator Rosapepe,

My name is Kristin Hanna and I am the legislative chair for the Maryland Tourism Coalition as well as the Senior Director of Marketing for Flying Dog Brewery. I am writing on behalf of Maryland Tourism Coalition today - an organization that represents tourism and hospitality businesses in Maryland. As we continue to battle the effects to COVID-19, we recognize that any support for Camden Yards will be a huge benefit to our entire eco-system. We urge you all to support increasing the debt cap listed in HB 896.

In order to address the long-term future of the stadiums, legislation was introduced to increase the debt cap from \$235 million to \$1.2 billion, with \$600 million allocated to each stadium. To service the debt, the amount allocated from lottery proceeds will be capped at \$90 million from the current \$20 million. These improvements are designed to increase the economic impact of the stadiums for the State, the City, and the teams.

Year-round events at the Camden Yards Sports Complex create jobs and generate sports, leisure and business visitor spending with the resulting tax revenues reinvested to fund essential citizen services and improve Marylander's quality of life. Positive images of our State during broadcasts of home games communicate to viewers that Maryland is 'Open for Business'.

In addition to MLB and NLF games, usage of the facilities for major motion picture and television locations, international soccer matches, college sports, concerts, V.I.P. visits, cultural festivals plus corporate events, non-profit fundraisers, graduations, proms, weddings, and family functions, further contribute to the value of the Camden Yards Sports Complex for Marylanders throughout the year.

As we compete with surrounding states to attract visitors, investing in our assets is critical. We know the resiliency of this amazing community and we look forward to your support moving forward.

Sincerely,

Kristin Hanna

Kristin Hanna
MTC Legislative Chair
Flying Dog Senior Director of Marketing
<a href="mailto:kristin.hanna@flyingdog.com">kristin.hanna@flyingdog.com</a>
480-710-2920

# JOHN MORTON, III POST OFFICE BOX 9765 ARNOLD, MARYLAND 21012

April 5, 2022

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

Re: Letter of Support - HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards To Chair Guzzone and the Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

I am John Morton III, Chairman Emeritus of the Maryland Stadium Authority, and offer my support of HB0896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards that further elevates Maryland as sports destination by investing in our award-winning facilities to maintain our professional teams and create business opportunities across the state for years to come.

The Camden Yards Sports Complex was a game changer for stadium construction, inspiring a generation of urban revitalization across the nation and serving as a catalyst for economic development for our city and state. Year-round events at the Camden Yards Sports Complex creates jobs and generates visitor spending with the resulting tax revenues reinvested to fund essential citizen services and improving Marylander's quality of life. Since 1992, by welcoming over 80 million visitors, there has been an estimated \$15.9 billion in total visitor spending at the Camden Yards Sports Complex, with \$9.2 billion attributed to the Baltimore Orioles and \$6.7 billion attributed to the Baltimore Ravens.

HB 896 before you today addresses the future of Camden Yards Sports Complex as the Orioles and the Ravens seek to renew their strong commitment to the State of Maryland and collaborate with MSA on long-term improvements over time designed to increase the economic impact of the stadiums for the state, the city, and the teams. This legislation demonstrates, through the MSA, Maryland's firm financial commitment to the Orioles and the Ravens and their respective leagues to stay and play in Maryland.

In closing, Maryland is blessed with two of the finest stadiums in Major League Baseball and the National Football League. It would be a tragedy for the State to see either one of these stadiums sit empty and without the Orioles or the Ravens. There would be a devastating economic impact on the State and the City and all Marylanders would experience immeasurable loss in the quality of life.

Maryland should not take for granted that our teams will always be with us in Baltimore or the State. Both teams have private ownership and many cities would provide significant incentives to lure the Orioles or the Ravens into relocating. To retain the teams, our responsibility is to continuously perform timely maintenance and invest in periodic apprades to retain top tier status.

Lastly, remember the Baltimore Colts.

LIM

Chairman Emeritus of the Maryland Stadium Authority

April 8, 2022

William P. Jones 4 Farview Road Baltimore MD 21212 410-206-8326

The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair Budget and Taxation Committee 3 West, Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support - HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards and HB 897 Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

To Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

I am writing this letter to demonstrate my support for HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards and HB 897 Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022. The funds that would be made available would insure that both the Baltimore Ravens and the Baltimore Orioles will remain in Baltimore Maryland for the foreseeable future.

In 1979, I joined the Orioles Designated Hitters (DH) Club, a volunteer organization whose mission was to help the Orioles establish financial stabilization through the sale of season tickets. The success of the DH Club and other factors were instrumental in Edward Bennett William's decision to keep the Orioles in Baltimore. This resulted in the formation of the Maryland Stadium Authority, the signing of a 30 year lease and the subsequent building of Oriole Park at Camden Yards.

Since 1992, by welcoming approximately 85 million visitors, there has been an estimated \$15.9 billion in total spending at the Camden Yards Sports Complex, with \$9.2 billion attributed to the Baltimore Orioles and \$6.7 billion attributed to the Baltimore Ravens. The passing of these bills will further benefit Baltimore City, the Greater Baltimore Region and the State of Maryland. The direct economic benefit will be in the tens of millions of dollars. The indirect benefits will be immeasurable. For the reasons expressed in this letter, I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 896 and HB 897 and am available for any questions that you may have.

Sincerely yours,

William P. Jones

Past President and CEO, The Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore

April 5, 2022

Harold I. Hackerman 3304 Redspire Lane Pikesville, MD 21208 HHack@ellinandtucker.com

The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair Budget and Taxation Committee 3 West, Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support - HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards and HB 897 Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

To Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

As a member of the member Orioles Designated Hitters Club (1979-present) and a member of Ravens Scouts (2019-present), a volunteer ticket sales force with the goal of bolstering the team's ticket sales efforts I support HB0896 - Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorization - Camden Yards and its companion bill, HB0897 - Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022 that reinvests in the state's sports venues which creates jobs, generates economic benefits, encourages visitation and inspires civic pride.

The iconic Camden Yards Sports Complex resulted from visionary leadership and has been a successful investment and an important year-round entertainment and community asset for the greater Baltimore region. Furthermore, the teams stretch their influence across the state with Baltimore Orioles' minor league affiliates in Harford, Wicomico and Prince George's Counties and with the Baltimore Ravens headquarters and state-of-the-art training facility in Baltimore County. This legislation expands on that vision for the next generation and demonstrates Maryland's firm financial commitment to the Baltimore Orioles and the Baltimore Ravens and their respective leagues.

I look forward to celebrating the 30th anniversary of our beloved ballpark with the passage of HB 896 that affords an investment in the Camden Yards Sports Complex for future generations of Marylanders enjoyment and enrichment. You may reach me at any time with any questions.

Thank you,

Harold I. Hackerman

Member Orioles Designated Hitters Club (1979-present)

Member of Ravens Scouts (2019-present)

al I. Hacken

#### April 5, 2022 Robert J. Cecil

Timonium, MD 21093 Boh, Cecili@hotmail.com

The Honorable, Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair The Honorable, Senator Jim Rosapepe, Vice Chair

3 West, Miller Senate Office Building Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Letter of Support - HB 896 Maryland Stadium Authority - Increase of Bond Authorizat Caraden Yarda and HB 897 Sports Entertainment Facilities Act of 2022

To Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Honorable Members of the Budget and Taxation

As the refered Director of Soles, House Broadcasting, WHAE, Radio, the longitime flagslights station of the Critician and Rawarm and noveletose, I have findanted knowledge of the economistrates of our gendensiceal spectra tenns in the greater Bultmore region and across the state as common the state of t

For 10 years, the Camden Yards Sports Complex has served as a catalyst for economic development for our city and state. Year-round events creates jobs and generates visitor spending with the resulting tax revenues reinvested to fund essential citizen services and improving.

The positive images of our city and our state during broadcasts of home games and the

or Maryana being nome or trans precessional status.

In closing, Hill 896 demonstrates, through the Maryland Stadium Authority, the State's firm
financial commitment to the teams as they onnew their long-term agreement to stay and play in
Bultimore. Maryland, For the reasons excessed in this letter, I offer my support of HB 896 and

financial commitment to the teams as they renew their long-term agreements to stay and play Bultimore, Maryland. For the reasons expressed in this letter, I offer my support of HB 896 a HB 897 and an available for any questions that you may have. Thank you,

Retired Director of Sales, Hearst Broadcasting, WBAL Radio, Orioles Designated Hitters Club