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Letter of Support

SBO896 (HBO897) Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and
Operating Authority Task Force

Senate Finance Committee
Chair, Senator Pamela Beidle
Vice Chair, Senator Katherine Klausmeier

Maryland Stadium Authority
Michael J. Frenz, Executive Director

Good afternoon Chair, Vice Chair and honorable members of the Senate Finance Committee, I am Michael J. Frenz, Executive Director of the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA), a member of the Directors of the Baltimore Convention & Tourism Board, and I appreciate the opportunity to provide this Letter of Support for SBO896 (HBO897) Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority Task Force.

Baltimore, our state's largest city, home to the Camden Yards Sports Complex, is experiencing an influx of strategic public and private investment at area attractions and amenities with improvements in public safety and enhancements to transportation. We believe the synergies of a reimagined Camden Yards Sports Complex, modernized Baltimore Convention Center and revitalized Inner Harbor will be game changing in the highly competitive quest for city-wide bookings.

Investment in Baltimore Convention Center has strong fiscal benefits to the state through tax revenues, economic activity, job creation and media exposure while providing entertainment and business opportunities for both Marylanders and travelers. Infrastructure improvements to the Baltimore Convention Center also extends the use of facility for the next generation of business and leisure travelers.

Given the proximity of the Baltimore Convention Center, MSA's support of this legislation is consistent with the desire to encourage more vibrant activity at the Camden Yards Sports Complex and expanding opportunities for socializing, dining, and spending, before, during and after games, concerts, meetings and special events.

As you may be aware, in 1996 MSA completed the construction of the Baltimore City Convention Center expansion, MSA has since overseen a multitude of

feasibility studies, conducted due diligence and conceptual design of the proposed modernization. We treasure our reputation for unbiased, independent analysis, and our reputation for on-time, on-budget project delivery. Should this bill pass and MSA serves on this taskforce then oversees this work, we will work with the same diligence we apply to any study or project with which we are entrusted. We're here to serve.

For the reasons expressed in this letter, MSA urges a favorable report for SBO896 (HBO897) Baltimore Convention and Tourism Redevelopment and Operating Authority Task Force and I would be delighted to answer any questions.