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Date: February 24, 2026

To: Maryland House of Delegates Appropriations Committee

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Re Favorable - HB1581 Horse Racing - Facility Ownership, Development, Licensing, and Operations - Alterations

Good afternoon, the Honorable Chair Barnes, the Honorable Vice Chair Kaiser and distinguished members of the Appropriations committee.

I am Michael Frenz, the Executive Director of the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) and am pleased to provide this letter of support for HB1581 Horse Racing - Facility Ownership, Development, Licensing, and Operations - Alterations. This proposed legislation will do the following things:

- Changes the primary operator of the thoroughbred racetracks to either a new entity, The Maryland Jockey Club, Inc., or an operator designated by the MSA to assume those responsibilities.
- Makes the MSA responsible for the selection and acquisition of the Training Facility Site. This was the responsibility of the sunsetted Maryland Thoroughbred Racetrack Operating Authority.
- Removes the Maryland Economic Development Corporation (MEDCO) as the entity to enter into various agreements, including long-term agreements, and moves this responsibility to the MSA. MSA also replaces MEDCO as the operator.

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Over the past 40 years, in addition to the construction and operation of the award-winning Camden Yards Sports Complex, the MSA has overseen a multitude of projects on various proposals for sports, education, entertainment, and public assembly facilities across the state. We treasure our reputation on-time, on-budget project delivery that meets or exceeds MBE goals.

MSA will continue to work with the same diligence we apply to any project with which we are entrusted. We're here to serve. However, in order for the MSA to continue to do its good work as requested for the highly visible and highly anticipated Redevelopment of the Pimlico Racing Facility and New Training Center this bill is essential to keep the project on track.

For the reasons expressed in this letter, MSA respectfully requests a favorable report for HB1581 -Horse Racing - Facility Ownership, Development, Licensing, and Operations - Alterations.

In closing, when completed the new Pimlico facility will support over 500 jobs, and go from hosting approximately 15 racing days per year to becoming the permanent home of Maryland Thoroughbred racing with more than 100 racing days annually. As the centerpiece of Maryland's Thoroughbred racing industry—which sustains more than 28,000 jobs and has generated approximately \$3 billion in economic impact—in addition to hosting the Preakness Stakes, the new Pimlico facility will be a year-round hub of economic activity for the City of Baltimore and the state of Maryland.

I again wish to again thank the members of the committee for their time and consideration. I would be delighted to answer any questions and provide any additional materials to assist the committee in its decision making. I can be reached at mfrenz@mdstad.com or 410-333-1560 at the committee members convenience.

Respectfully,
Michael J. Frenz
Executive Director
Maryland Stadium Authority