



CHARLES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
Department of Recreation, Parks & Tourism

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February 23, 2026

The Honorable Members
Maryland Senate
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Support for Senate Bill 575: Maryland Stadium Authority – Charles County Sports and Wellness Complex

Dear Chair and Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee:

On behalf of the Charles County Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism, I am writing to express strong support for Senate Bill 575, which authorizes the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) to assist in financing and oversight of the proposed Charles County Sports and Wellness Complex.

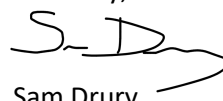
The 2022 Charles County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) identified deficiencies in indoor recreation and aquatic facilities. Notably, Charles County has shared use aquatic facilities with the Public Schools and does not operate a single County owned indoor aquatic facility that is accessible to the community on a consistent and daily basis; and Waldorf, the most densely populated area of Charles County, has the least recreational opportunities and amenities.

The proposed Charles County Sports and Wellness Complex will redevelop underutilized commercial space at the St. Charles Towne Center in Waldorf, into a community asset featuring a 50-meter indoor competition pool, additional aquatic amenities, fitness space, and multipurpose program areas. During community engagement, many participants noted that in the current void of local amenities, residents often travel outside Charles County, and out of state, to access pools, swimming lessons, and competitive meets, resulting in discretionary spending leaving the County and the State.

This facility will bring recreational opportunities to the community and will spur a positive economic impact through active sports tourism and with the opportunity to host local, state and regional competitions. A facility of this scale will help retain that economic activity locally, generate state and local tax revenue, increase hospitality revenue, create jobs, and service as a regional destination for sports tourism.

From a programmatic perspective, the Complex will enhance quality of life for residents by expanding learning to swim opportunities, supporting school based and athletic programs, offering senior wellness classes, and providing safe, inclusive space for people of all abilities. Access to high quality recreation and aquatics supports improved public health, youth development, water safety, and community cohesion; core goals identified in the adopted LPPRP.

For these reasons, the Charles County Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism strongly support Senate Bill 575 and respectfully urges the Committee's favorable report. When completed, this facility will strengthen Maryland's economy and retain currently exported spending while closing documented service gaps and enhancing the overall quality of life for residents across Southern Maryland.

Sincerely,

Sam Drury
Deputy Director