



March 4, 2026

The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair
Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

Re: Senate Bill 945 - Admissions and Amusement Tax and Sales and Use Tax – University of Maryland, College Park Athletic Competitions and Game Day Surcharge

Position: *Oppose*

Chair Guzzone and Committee Members:

On behalf of Experience Prince George's, I am writing to express our **opposition** for **Senate Bill 945 - Admissions and Amusement Tax and Sales and Use Tax – University of Maryland, College Park Athletic Competitions and Game Day Surcharge**. SB 945 would impose a new State admissions and amusement tax on tickets to University of Maryland athletic competitions at College Park and layers a game day surcharge of 3% on food, alcoholic beverages, and accommodation within a three-mile radius of the football stadium on game days and the preceding day. New tax revenue is dedicated to a University of Maryland Athletic Department Support Fund, to be used for scholarships and compensation for student-athletes.

Experience Prince George's and its partners already operate in a highly competitive regional environment where hotel taxes and fees are a key component of price-sensitive travel decisions. Every incremental percentage of tax layered onto food, beverages, and hotel room rates makes this destination less competitive compared to neighboring states and regions. This is not a narrow stadium user fee. It reaches into surrounding neighborhoods and commercial districts and turns them into a financing mechanism for athletics, even though those businesses are already bearing the costs of traffic, congestion, staffing challenges, and increased public-safety needs that come with large events.

Experience Prince George's strongly supports the University of Maryland and recognizes the value that Terps athletics brings to Prince George's County, but a proposed game day surcharge asks our visitors and our hospitality partners to underwrite University athletic funds. For these reasons, Experience Prince George's County respectfully urges an **unfavorable** report on Senate Bill 945.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leslie Graves".

Leslie Graves, President & CEO
Experience Prince George's County