



CITY OF HAGERSTOWN, MARYLAND

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The Honorable Guy Guzzone
Chair, Senate Budget and Tax Committee
2 West, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: **FAVORABLE – SB 497 – Property Tax – City of Hagerstown and the Hagerstown Multi-Use Sports and Events Facility, Inc. – Exemption**

I am writing on behalf of the Mayor and Council of the City of Hagerstown to express their strong support for granting a tax exemption of property owned by the City used primarily for public social, recreational, and entertainment purposes as well as for Hagerstown Multi-Use Sports and Event Facility, Inc (Meritus Park). These facilities represent a significant investment in the long-term health, economic vitality, and community engagement of the Hagerstown region.

The Hagerstown Fieldhouse, specifically, is expected to serve as a year-round venue for youth athletics, tournaments, recreational programming, and community events, drawing visitors from across the region and generating meaningful economic activity for local businesses, including hotels, restaurants, and retail establishments. Beyond its economic benefits, the project will provide safe, modern recreational space that promotes youth development, wellness, and positive community interaction—outcomes that deliver lasting public value.

Providing a tax exemption for this project would help ensure its financial sustainability during the critical early years of operation, allowing resources to be directed toward programming, facility maintenance, and expanded access for residents, schools, and community organizations. Investments that strengthen community infrastructure and expand opportunities for young people and families yield returns that extend well beyond immediate fiscal considerations.

For these reasons, I respectfully encourage a favorable report of the requested tax exemption and refund of past year property tax for the Hagerstown Fieldhouse and the Hagerstown Multi-Use Sports and Event Facility. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to projects that enhance the quality of life and economic strength of our region.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Nicewarner

City Administrator, City of Hagerstown