



February 20, 2026

The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Support for SB0575 – Economic Development - Maryland Stadium Authority - Charles County Sports and Wellness Center

Chair Guzzone and Members of the Committee:

My name is Matt Libber, and I serve as Legislative Committee Chair for the Maryland Tourism Coalition (MTC). MTC is a statewide trade association representing businesses and organizations across every sector of Maryland's tourism industry. Our mission is to support tourism-related enterprises through education, collaboration, and advocacy. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of MTC in **strong support of Senate Bill 575**. This bill authorizes the **Maryland Stadium Authority** to assist in the **planning, financing, and development of a new Charles County Sports and Wellness Center** and establishes the appropriate framework to support this transformational project.

1. Expanding Maryland's Sports Tourism Economy

Sports tourism is one of the fastest-growing segments of the travel industry. By supporting the **development of a new, modern sports and wellness center in Charles County**, SB 575 positions Maryland to attract:

- Regional and interstate youth tournaments
- Amateur athletic championships
- Multi-day competitive events
- Wellness expos and community sports festivals

These events generate **overnight stays, restaurant spending, retail purchases, and repeat visitation**. Unlike seasonal tourism models, indoor sports facilities allow for **year-round economic activity**, including during traditionally slower travel months.

Authorizing the Maryland Stadium Authority to support the **development of this new facility** ensures that it is built to competitive standards capable of attracting high-impact events.



2. Driving Hotel Occupancy and Visitor Spending

Families, teams, and spectators traveling for tournaments often stay multiple nights. A new regional sports complex in Charles County will:

- Increase hotel occupancy rates
- Generate additional transient occupancy tax revenue
- Boost restaurant, retail, and entertainment sales
- Support small businesses throughout Southern Maryland

Sports tournaments often bring hundreds — sometimes thousands — of visitors at a time, creating concentrated economic impact that ripples throughout the local and regional economy.

3. Strengthening Southern Maryland as a Destination

The development of a new Sports and Wellness Center expands Maryland’s tourism portfolio beyond traditional waterfront, heritage, and urban attractions. It establishes Southern Maryland as:

- A hub for youth and amateur sports
- A venue for health and wellness programming
- A destination for multi-day competitive events

By building new, purpose-designed infrastructure, Maryland enhances its competitiveness with neighboring states that are aggressively investing in sports tourism facilities.

4. Leveraging Public Investment to Attract Private Activity

SB 575 creates a financing pathway that signals serious public commitment to the project. That commitment encourages:

- Event organizers to schedule tournaments in Maryland
- Corporate sponsorship and naming partnerships
- Hospitality sector expansion and upgrades
- Broader private-sector engagement

Strategic public investment in new tourism infrastructure often catalyzes additional private economic activity, multiplying the return on taxpayer dollars.



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5. Long-Term Economic and Community Benefits

In addition to tourism impacts, the development of this new facility will enhance quality of life for residents, schools, and community organizations. Vibrant, well-programmed facilities strengthen community identity and create additional reasons for out-of-town visitors to travel to Maryland.

A new Charles County Sports and Wellness Center is not simply a building — it is a long-term economic asset that will generate tourism revenue, job creation, and sustained economic growth.

Conclusion

By authorizing the Maryland Stadium Authority to support the **development of a new Charles County Sports and Wellness Center**, SB 575 represents a strategic investment in Maryland's tourism future and regional economic competitiveness.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE report on SB 575**.

Respectfully submitted,

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