

# **SB883 Testimony (1).pdf**

Uploaded by: Antonio Hayes

Position: FAV

**ANTONIO HAYES**

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

*Legislative District 40*



**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Senator Hayes in Support of Senate Bill 883: *Economic Development – Maryland Stadium Authority – Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility***

**March 5, 2026**

Good afternoon, Madame Chair Pamela Beidle, and honorable members of the Finance committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present **SB 883- Economic Development – Maryland Stadium Authority – Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility**

I am pleased today to present SB 883- *Economic Development – Maryland Stadium Authority – Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility*, and I ask this Committee for a favorable vote. The bill before you today proposes the financing and development of Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility. By establishing Baltimore’s very first professional soccer venue, we will be providing a home for professional sports as well as a learning environment for Maryland’s youth. By integrating athletics with education, this facility will serve as a source for economic prosperity and community development.

Senate Bill 883 will authorize the Maryland Stadium Authority to oversee the completion of this development. The bill allows for a budget of \$216,600,000 in bond issuances for site acquisition, design, and construction. Beginning in fiscal year 2028, partial sports wagering proceeds will be used to repay the principal and interest on the bonds issued for the Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility Fund. Other regulations regarding sports wagering allocation are further discussed in this bill.

Following the blueprint laid out by Camden Yards and the Hippodrome, this project will generate additional tax revenues for the State. These will be tracked through mandated annual reporting to the Governor and General Assembly.

In closing, Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility is not just a stadium; it is an investment in our state's infrastructure and our children's future. Thus, I urge favorable support on Senate Bill 883

**Senator Antonio L. Hayes**  
**40th Legislative District- MD**

# **Final - Jason M. Levien - Senate Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jason Levien

Position: FAV



March 5, 2026

The Honorable Pamela Beidle, Chair

Maryland Senate Office Building

3 East Miller

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Antonio Hayes, Vice Chair

Maryland Senate Office Building

3 East Miller

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB 1078 – Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility Act

Position: Support

Dear Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jason M. Levien and I am the Co-Chairman and CEO of D.C. United LLC. I respectfully appreciate the opportunity to submit this written testimony in support of House Bill 1078, the Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility Act, which authorizes the Maryland Stadium Authority to plan, finance, and develop a professional soccer stadium and facility in Baltimore City, primarily intended for professional soccer and as a soccer academy and school.

It is an honor to be here to discuss our shared vision for making Baltimore one of the great soccer cities in the US, and I especially want to thank Vice Chair Hayes for his attention and support in authoring this important legislation.

Over the past couple of years, D.C. United has worked closely with the City of Baltimore, the State of Maryland, and the Maryland Stadium Authority to advance a transformational project: a world-class soccer stadium and training campus that will bring professional men's and women's soccer, a full youth academy, and year-round community programming to Baltimore. We feel strongly that Carroll Park Golf Course has a rich cultural history that deserves to be honored thoughtfully. We're committed to working with the community throughout the developmental process to determine the best way to do so.

Baltimore is a proud sports city with a passionate soccer fanbase. We saw that clearly when we announced B-MORE United Day and brought one of our biggest matches of the year to M&T Bank Stadium. The energy and unity across the region reaffirmed what we already knew: Baltimore is ready for professional soccer.

This project will bring new jobs, new economic activity, and new opportunities for young people across the city. It will create a home for the next generation of Maryland athletes and a gathering place for families and fans from across the state.

We are grateful for the leadership of Senator Hayes, Mayor Scott, Delegate Edelson, and many others who have shaped this vision. And we are proud to welcome partners like Carmelo Anthony and Mark Ingram, whose deep roots in Baltimore and commitment to youth empowerment strengthens this effort.

D.C. United is prepared to make a significant, long-term investment in Baltimore. We believe this project will help anchor Maryland as one of the top soccer states in the country, and we are ready to move forward together.

On behalf of D.C. United, LLC, I respectfully request a favorable report on HB 1078 and thank you very much for your time and partnership.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason M. Levien

Co-Chairman and CEO

D.C. United LLC

# **SB0883 - MTC Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Matt Libber

Position: FAV



March 2, 2026

The Honorable Pam Beidle  
Finance Committee  
3 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: Support SB0883 - Economic Development – Maryland Stadium Authority – Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility**

Chairman Beidle and Members of the Committee,

My name is Matt Libber, and I am the Legislative Committee Chair for the Maryland Tourism Coalition (MTC). The Maryland Tourism Coalition is a statewide trade organization representing businesses and organizations across all sectors of Maryland’s tourism economy — including destination marketing organizations, hotels, attractions, restaurants, cultural institutions, transportation providers, and outdoor recreation entities. Our mission is to support and strengthen Maryland’s tourism industry through education, networking, and advocacy. **I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 883, authorizing the Maryland Stadium Authority to finance and support the development of a soccer stadium and related facilities at Carroll Park.**

This legislation represents a strategic investment in Maryland’s tourism economy, workforce development, and long-term competitiveness in the growing global sports marketplace.

**Tourism Impact: A Year-Round Destination Asset**

Sports tourism is one of the fastest-growing sectors of the travel industry. Unlike single-event venues, a professional soccer stadium and multi-use facility can host:

- Professional league matches
- National and international exhibitions
- Youth and collegiate tournaments
- Concerts and cultural festivals
- Community sporting events

Each event generates out-of-state visitation that drives spending in:

- Hotels and short-term accommodations
- Restaurants and bars
- Transportation services
- Retail and entertainment venues



Visitors attending multi-day tournaments — particularly youth soccer events — are among the highest per-capita tourism spenders because they travel with families and teams. A facility at Carroll Park positions Baltimore and Maryland to capture this expanding market, competing with states that have aggressively invested in sports infrastructure.

### **Strengthening Maryland's Competitive Position**

Neighboring states have made significant investments in modern sports and entertainment venues to attract tourism dollars. Without comparable facilities, Maryland risks losing:

- Major regional tournaments
- International friendlies
- Convention and event tie-ins
- Broadcast exposure tied to nationally televised matches

SB 883 allows Maryland to remain competitive in attracting marquee events that elevate the State's profile nationally and internationally.

Soccer, in particular, connects Maryland to a global audience. International matches and tournaments bring visitors from across the country and abroad — expanding Maryland's tourism reach far beyond traditional markets.

### **Economic Multiplier Effects**

Investment through the Maryland Stadium Authority ensures:

#### **1. Construction Jobs and Local Contracting**

The development phase creates skilled construction employment and contracting opportunities for Maryland-based firms.

#### **2. Permanent Hospitality Employment**

Ongoing stadium operations support long-term jobs in:

- Facility management
- Event staffing
- Food and beverage services
- Security and logistics

#### **3. Increased Tax Revenue**

Visitor spending generates:

- Sales and use tax revenue
- Hotel occupancy tax revenue
- Income tax revenue
- Local business growth



Tourism-related tax revenue reduces reliance on residential taxpayers and broadens Maryland's fiscal base.

### **Revitalization and Place-Making**

Carroll Park represents a powerful opportunity for urban revitalization. A thoughtfully developed stadium and surrounding facilities can:

- Activate underutilized land
- Encourage mixed-use development
- Increase property values
- Support small, locally owned businesses

Modern sports venues are no longer isolated structures; they are anchors for vibrant districts that combine recreation, dining, retail, and community gathering spaces. This type of place-making strengthens Baltimore's appeal as a leisure and event destination.

### **Youth Sports Tourism and Community Benefit**

Maryland has one of the strongest youth soccer cultures in the region. A state-of-the-art facility would allow Maryland to:

- Host regional and national youth tournaments
- Attract club competitions currently held out-of-state
- Retain spending that Maryland families currently take elsewhere

Youth tournaments often fill hotels during non-peak tourism seasons, smoothing demand cycles and providing consistent economic activity.

### **A Strategic Investment in Maryland's Tourism Future**

SB 883 is not simply a stadium bill — it is an economic development initiative that leverages sports tourism to:

- Increase visitor spending
- Create jobs
- Strengthen Baltimore's and Maryland's brand
- Expand long-term tax revenues

By empowering the Maryland Stadium Authority to move forward with this project, the General Assembly signals that Maryland intends to compete — and win — in the rapidly growing sports tourism market.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to give Senate Bill 883 a favorable report.

Thank you for your consideration.



**MARYLAND  
TOURISM  
COALITION**

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Libber  
Legislative Chair  
Maryland Tourism Coalition

**FOCP\_Testimony against SB883 & HB1078.pdf**

Uploaded by: Camille Greaney

Position: UNF

March 5, 2026

RE: SB883 & HB1078: - Economic Development - Maryland Stadium Authority - Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility

To Whom it May Concern,

The Board of the Friends of Carroll Park (FOCP), and our surrounding communities, have received and reviewed the communications surrounding the potential of a MLS Soccer Stadium by D.C. United in Baltimore and we are opposed to the site selection of the historic Carroll Park Golf Course.

As stated in the MLS NEXT Pro Final Report, the community has expressed our opposition of this site from the initial conversations about the stadium until today. We do not support a stadium at the expense of our golf course, nor do we appreciate the continuation of support for this site in the manner of naming SB883 "Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility" when the Final Report findings indicate that the Port Covington location may be better suited.

The Final Report states that the Carroll Park Golf Course is "zoned OS, which is an Open Space Zoning District designed to 'enhance the quality of life for City residents by permanently preserving public open space as an important public asset and critical environmental feature'" (Preliminary Design Report, 2025). To put a stadium on this location would decrease the quality of life for the citizens of the surrounding Carroll Park neighborhoods and would remove a space that was intended to be a protected green space for our community. We are active neighbors, users and developers of the Carroll Park region and our involvement as stakeholders in community development needs to be at the forefront of this discussion as we have been excluded from any productive conversations until SB883 received large public attention.

A stadium in Baltimore is welcome and applauded, but not at the Carroll Park Golf course. All continued discussion and proposed legislature should remove Carroll Park from consideration.

Thank you for your time,

Camille Greaney  
President of Friends of Carroll Park

with,  
Casey O'Neill  
President of Citizen of Pigtown

Melanie Scheirer  
President of Mount Clare Community Association

Dr. Laura Dykes  
President of Hollins Roundhouse

# **SB 883 - Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility.**

Uploaded by: Denise Riley

Position: UNF



A Union of Professionals  
**AFT-Maryland**

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Kenya Campbell  
PRESIDENT

LaBrina Hopkins  
SECRETARY-TREASURER

**Written Testimony to the Maryland Senate Finance Committee  
SB 883 – Economic Development - Maryland Stadium Authority –  
Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility  
March 5, 2026**

**UNFAVORABLE**

Chair Beidle, Vice Chair Hayes and Members of the Committee: AFT Maryland opposes SB 883. To be clear, our organization is not opposed to the development of a soccer stadium and facility at Carroll Park. However, we are strictly opposed to the mechanism used to fund it.

As currently written, this bill creates a new provision, (b)(2)(iii), which effectively skims money off the top of state revenues that are legally intended for our schools. Specifically, it redirects funds from sports wagering, revenue that was promised for the Blueprint for Maryland's Future and sends it instead to the Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility Fund.

Every dollar diverted by this new provision is a dollar taken from the Blueprint. Until this bill is amended to ensure that no funds intended for the Blueprint are used for this project, AFT Maryland respectfully requests an unfavorable report on SB 883.

**SB 883.pdf**

Uploaded by: Heather Rounds

Position: UNF

**SB 883**

**Economic Development – Maryland Stadium Authority**

**Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility**

**In the Senate - Hearing 3/05 at 1:00 p.m.**

**Position: Opposed**

I am writing to respectfully urge an unfavorable decision on Senate Bill 883, which would authorize the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) to acquire land, design, construct, and finance a new professional soccer stadium and academy facility in Carroll Park. The legislation permits the issuance of up to \$216.6 million in state-backed bonds, creating substantial long-term financial exposure for Maryland taxpayers without adequate safeguards.

Stadium financing has a well-documented history of revenue volatility, yet SB 883 contains no protections against cost overruns, no requirements that private partners share financial risk, and no mechanisms to prevent taxpayers from covering bond shortfalls. Because MSA bonds rely on the State's credit, Marylanders would ultimately bear the consequences if revenue projections do not materialize--something none of us can afford, as we see the costs of everyday living rapidly rising.

Additionally, SB 883 grants MSA broad authority to "acquire by certain means" the land at Carroll Park. This raises significant equity and community-control concerns for West and Southwest Baltimore. The bill does not require community benefit agreements, environmental justice assessments, or binding local oversight—leaving residents without a guaranteed voice in decisions that directly affect their neighborhoods and parkland.

The bill also diverts a large share of Maryland's limited bonding capacity toward a single stadium project at a time when the State is confronting major budget constraints and possible cuts to essential services, including programs under the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), where hundreds of individuals with disabilities are at risk of losing vital support and care. With critical human services under threat, it is difficult to justify committing hundreds of millions of public dollars to an entertainment venue rather than community-driven, high-impact needs such as housing, infrastructure, schools, and disability supports. The example of DDA is just one of many this budget season.

SB 883 establishes a Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility Fund, which is exempt from normal requirements that interest earned on State funds return to the General Fund and redirects sports wagering proceeds into a project-specific silo. This reduces transparency,

weakens fiscal oversight, and sets a troubling precedent of carving out special financial treatment for individual development projects.

Furthermore, the legislation offers no evidence-based plan for job creation. Without independent economic analysis, local hiring guarantees, or small-business participation requirements, the bill provides no assurance that promised economic benefits—often overstated with stadium projects—will materialize for Baltimore residents.

Finally, there are serious concerns about traffic, transportation, and road capacity in the Carroll Park area. Existing surveys and assessments have not adequately accounted for the congestion, road wear, neighborhood disruption, and safety challenges that a high-volume sports facility would introduce. This is especially a concern with the Route 1 corridor where these issues are already prevalent. If these problems are not fully evaluated and addressed before authorizing major construction, the surrounding communities will bear the burden.

For all these reasons, **I respectfully urge the Committee to oppose SB 883.** Maryland's limited resources—especially amid current fiscal pressures—should prioritize essential public services and community-centered investments, not a high-risk stadium proposal lacking transparency, accountability, and demonstrated public benefit.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Heather Rounds, Route 1 corridor community member**

**410.491.5722 / [heatherrounds@gmail.com](mailto:heatherrounds@gmail.com)**

# **SB 883 Oppose (Written).pdf**

Uploaded by: Riya Gupta

Position: UNF



**Testimony in OPPOSITION of  
Senate Bill 883: Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility – Funding and Bond Authorization**

Senate Finance Committee

Position: Oppose

**March 5, 2026**

Strong Schools Maryland is a statewide network of education advocates committed to full funding and faithful implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future. We respectfully urge an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 883, which would authorize bonds to support the Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility and redirect the first dollars from sports wagering revenue to cover the principal and interest on those bonds before those revenues flow to the Blueprint Fund and the General Fund.

Strong Schools Maryland does not take a position on the merits of the proposed stadium project. Our concern is the funding structure. The Blueprint for Maryland's Future is not fully funded with dedicated, ongoing revenues. Diverting sports wagering dollars away from the Blueprint Fund undermines the State's ability to meet its commitments to students and educators.

The Department of Legislative Services has already identified a significant gap between projected Blueprint revenues and projected Blueprint expenditures through FY30. Dedicated revenues are expected to fall well short of total Blueprint costs, with the difference to be covered by general funds. That gap is substantial and ongoing. Every dollar redirected from an existing education revenue stream increases pressure on the General Fund and heightens the risk of future cuts, delays, or scaling back of Blueprint investments.

Sports wagering revenue was identified as part of the long-term funding strategy for public education. Senate Bill 883 would prioritize debt service for a new facility over investments in students, educators, and classrooms. That choice moves the State further from its commitment to deliver the world-class system envisioned in the Blueprint.

Maryland cannot afford to weaken the revenue streams supporting public education while the Blueprint is still being implemented and while significant funding gaps remain. The State's first obligation must be to fully fund its constitutional responsibility to provide a thorough and efficient system of public schools.

**For these reasons, Strong Schools Maryland respectfully requests an unfavorable report on Senate Bill 883.**

*For more information, contact Riya Gupta: [riya@strongschoolsmaryland.org](mailto:riya@strongschoolsmaryland.org)*

# **Testimony against SB883 & HB1078\_ Stadium in Carro**

Uploaded by: Scott Kashnow

Position: UNF

3/1/2026

RE: SB883 & HB1078: Against Soccer Stadium Replaces Golf Course in Carroll Park - \$216,600,000

Good Afternoon, My name is Scott Kashnow and I live in West Baltimore.

Both of my children play soccer a lot. They are each in two leagues right now. Just this past weekend our family played two games and refed 3. Most weekends in the fall, winter, and spring, we are busy playing soccer.

Here is what I would like to share with you today.

On April 18, **2024** Malik Robertson with DC United received my contact information from Councilwoman Porter's office and - emailed to ask if he could be added to the agenda of the next Friends of Carroll Park meeting - May 1, 2024

On May 1, **2024** Danita Johnson and Jason Levian of DC United Attended the Friends of Carroll Park meeting:

They told us they want to bring soccer to Baltimore. They want to be a good partner with the community and they want to teach and encourage youth participation in soccer. They told us that Carroll Park is one possible option. They told us that they were directed to the golf course and that "nothing is final". They said they are open to other options, public or private.

We told them we are very interested in encouraging more sports programming. We have been building programs, ourselves, for many years, and would love to see more opportunities for the youth.

We told them that the golf course is very important to the community. It is a loved amenity, It is historic and it was the first golf course in Baltimore that was integrated. This was just commemorated with a marker and a plaque by the Pitch and Putt Golf Club.

The golf course is also a natural buffer up against the Gwynns Falls Stream and Gwynns Falls Trail both of which are also very important to our community.

We were very clear with them as I will be with you. **We would love to see soccer come to Baltimore but it can not replace the Carroll Park Golf Course.**

They indicated they understood our position and promised to stay in touch and come back when there was more to tell. They said "this is just the start of the conversation." We have not heard from them since.

On October 15, **2025** Casey O'Neill (the President of the Citizens of Pigtown) followed up with Councilwoman Porter because of an article she saw regarding Carroll Park still being considered as a site for the soccer stadium. The Councilwoman responded that the stadium was not moving forward at this location.

This remained our understanding until SB883 was introduced this session just a few days ago.

On February 28, **2026** Senator Hayes convened Community Leaders and we shared the history above that he may not have been privy to prior.

We reminded him how important the Golf Course is to our community and he reiterated that the site is not yet selected and is still being studied. We left the meeting confident that the community has been heard clearly and that the golf course is now safe from potential destruction.

I am very active in my community. I am on the Board of:

Franklin Square Community Association (my neighborhood)

Baltimore Family Alliance

SouthwestPartnership - Secretary & Chair the Vibrant Streets Committee

Grow Home

Red Line CAT

Reconnecting Communities in West Baltimore Coalition

And

Friends of Carroll Park (board member since 2014)

I talk to a lot of people.

Not a single one is in favor of losing the Carroll Park Golf Course. Every one of them has said "there is no reason - there are plenty of other spots that would be great and we can have both!"

I implore you to amend this bill and **remove Carroll Park as an option**. It is not an option.

Scott Kashnow

Resident of West Baltimore

**SB0883\_MSEA\_Johnson\_UNF.pdf**

Uploaded by: Sean Johnson

Position: UNF

**UNFAVORABLE**

**Senate Bill 883**  
**Economic Development - Maryland Stadium Authority -**  
**Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility**

**Senate Finance Committee**  
**March 5, 2026**

**Sean Johnson, Executive Director**

The Maryland State Education Association has no opinion on the merits of the Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility but is compelled to offer this unfavorable testimony because of concerns relative to the funding source for the principal and interest of the bonds for the project.

MSEA represents 76,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools and community colleges, teaching and supporting our almost 900,000 K-12 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA represents more than 44 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

MSEA supports adequate, sustainable, and predictable funding for Maryland's public schools. A great public school for every child means our students have updated technology, small manageable classes, safe and modern schools, proper healthcare and nutrition, and highly-qualified and highly-effective educators. Protecting the integrity of Maryland's revenue structure is essential to maintaining these investments.

At the start of session, the Department of Legislative Services reported on the gap between ongoing Blueprint revenues and projected Blueprint expenses. The revenues are projected at \$1.5 billion-\$1.6 billion each year through FY30. The projected expenses are at \$3.2 billion-\$4.9 billion over that same period, with a delta of \$1.7 billion-\$3.3 billion that would be covered by general funds.

An important part of those ongoing revenues are dollars from sports wagering. Under the bonding terms of this legislation, the first revenue dollars from sports wagering are diverted to a new Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility Fund before they flow to benefit the Blueprint Fund and the General Fund.

Proponents shared in the hearing for HB 1078 that they intended for the bond support to be available after the deposit to the Blueprint Fund and to take from the General Funds. Such an arrangement would still earn MSEA's unfavorable recommendation. Given the projected Blueprint funding gaps and the further reliance on General Fund dollars to meet state aid for education, the diversion of sports wagering funds at any level moves Maryland further away from the goal to fund the Blueprint.

**MSEA requests an unfavorable report of Senate Bill 883.**

**Document - Fri, February 27, 2026.pdf**

Uploaded by: Victoria Rodriguez

Position: UNF

SB 883

Economic Development – Maryland Stadium Authority

Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility

In the Senate - Hearing 3/05 at 1:00 p.m.

Position: Opposed

I am writing to respectfully urge an unfavorable decision on Senate Bill 883, which would authorize the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) to acquire land, design, construct, and finance a new professional soccer stadium and academy facility in Carroll Park. The legislation permits the issuance of up to \$216.6 million in state-backed bonds, creating substantial long-term financial exposure for Maryland taxpayers without adequate safeguards.

Stadium financing has a well-documented history of revenue volatility, yet SB 883 contains no protections against cost overruns, no requirements that private partners share financial risk, and no mechanisms to prevent taxpayers from covering bond shortfalls. Because MSA bonds rely on the State's credit, Marylanders would ultimately bear the consequences if revenue projections do not materialize--something none of us can afford.

Additionally, SB 883 grants MSA broad authority to "acquire by certain means" the land at Carroll Park. This raises significant equity and community-control concerns for West and Southwest Baltimore. The bill does not require community benefit agreements, environmental justice assessments, or binding local oversight—leaving residents without a guaranteed voice in decisions that directly affect their neighborhoods and parkland.

The bill also diverts a large share of Maryland's limited bonding capacity toward a single stadium project at a time when the State is confronting major budget constraints and possible cuts to essential services, including programs under the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), where hundreds of individuals with disabilities are at risk of losing vital support and care. With critical human services under threat, it is difficult to justify committing hundreds of millions of public dollars to an entertainment venue rather than community-driven, high-impact needs such as housing, infrastructure, schools, and disability supports. The example of DDA is just one of many this budget season.

SB 883 establishes a Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility Fund, which is exempt from normal requirements that interest earned on State funds return to the General Fund and redirects sports wagering proceeds into a project-specific silo. This reduces transparency, weakens fiscal oversight, and sets a troubling precedent of carving out special financial treatment for individual development projects.

Furthermore, the legislation offers no evidence-based plan for job creation. Without independent economic analysis, local hiring guarantees, or small-business participation requirements, the bill provides no assurance that promised economic benefits—often overstated with stadium projects—will materialize for Baltimore residents.

The neighborhood of Pigtown has a rich history and our community shouldn't just have our voices trampled over like they mean nothing. The residents of Pigtown have time and time again voiced our strong opposition to having our public parks destroyed for commercial, private purposes that seek to make money off our community instead of building us up. The audacity to hear our voices and ignore them is jarring. This commercial deal should have been made between private properties so as to

utilize pre-existing unused industrial environments to avoid paving over the historic greenery and wildlife that exists in Carroll Park. This also would have avoided the issue of needing to utilize taxpayer money in state bonds in order to pay for a billionaire to line his pockets.

Finally, there are serious concerns about traffic, transportation, and road capacity in the Carroll Park area. Existing surveys and assessments have not adequately accounted for the congestion, road wear, neighborhood disruption, and safety challenges that a high-volume sports facility would introduce. If these issues are not fully evaluated and addressed before authorizing major construction, the surrounding communities will bear the burden.

For all these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to oppose SB 883. Maryland's limited resources—especially amid current fiscal pressures—should prioritize essential public services and community-centered investments, not a high-risk stadium proposal lacking transparency, accountability, and demonstrated public benefit.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rice Rodriguez

Resident of Pigtown

**SB 883 LOI.docx.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jennifer Beskid

Position: INFO

# Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency

Wes Moore, Governor • John Martin, Director



Montgomery Park Business Center  
1800 Washington Blvd., Ste. 330  
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

Tel: 410-230-8800  
TTY users call Maryland Relay  
www.mdlottery.com

**DATE:** March 3, 2026  
**BILL NO:** Senate Bill 883  
**BILL TITLE:** Economic Development - Maryland Stadium Authority - Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility  
**COMMITTEE:** Senate Finance  
**POSITION:** Letter of Information

The Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency (Agency) provides the following information regarding Senate Bill 883, *Economic Development - Maryland Stadium Authority - Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility*.

**Bill Summary:** Senate Bill 883 would authorize the Maryland Stadium Authority to establish the Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility and the Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility Fund, which would be funded by proceeds from both retail and mobile sports wagering to pay for the principal of and interest on the bonds issued to the Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility for that fiscal year.

**Background:** The Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Commission (Commission) accounts to the Comptroller for the sports wagering revenue generated under State Government Article § 9-1E-12. Specifically, the Commission deposits 15% of all proceeds from sports wagering in the State Lottery Fund, which are then distributed on a monthly basis to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future Fund (Blueprint). In addition, beginning in fiscal year 2026 and for each fiscal year thereafter, the Commission will deposit 5% of all proceeds attributable to mobile sports wagering to the General Fund.

**Summary:** SB 883, would require the Commission to transmit to the Comptroller the amount necessary to pay the principal and interest on the bonds issued to the Carroll Park Soccer Stadium and Facility for fiscal year 2028 and each fiscal year thereafter. This transfer of funds would be done *before* the current required 15% distribution for the Blueprint and the 5% distribution to the General Fund. The Agency estimates this would result in a decrease in the amount of funds transferred to both the Blueprint and the General Fund beginning in fiscal year 2028 and thereafter.

The Agency submits this information for the Committee's consideration as it debates Senate Bill 883.