



June 13, 2025

Governor Mike DeWine
77 S. High Street – 30th Floor Columbus, OH
43215

Speaker Matt Huffman
77 S. High Street – 14th Floor Columbus, OH
43215

Senate President Rob McColley
1 Capitol Square – Rm 210 Columbus, OH
43215

Dear Governor DeWine, Speaker Huffman and President McColley:

Thank you for your leadership regarding the State's partnership with Ohio's major- and minorleague sports franchises, and for the recognition in each of your budgets of the tremendous economic impact we have on the state and in our local communities.

We write to express our strong support for Governor DeWine's proposed process for allocating state support to major professional sports facility projects via the HB 96's Ohio Unclaimed Funds proposal.

Led by the major-league franchises, Ohio's professional sports teams, their venues, and surrounding entertainment districts generate billions of dollars in economic impact and support tens of thousands of jobs—in fact, Ohio has the most major league sports teams per capita in the nation. Studies prove that our teams attract tourism, create new spending, and help our cities and regions compete for talent and business investment.

Our teams, in partnership with local and state government, have invested billions in our venues where we host games and attract events that promote Ohio as a world-class destination to visit, raise a family and grow business. Your collective work to identify a sustainable, long-term funding plan which continues that support, while protecting Ohio taxpayers, is vital and we wish to voice our support as you finalize the biennial budget.

We believe the Governor's proposed process achieves the goals of supporting Ohio's professional sports venues as they age and economic opportunities related to those venues arise. Key components of the Governor's proposal that we support include:

- Major and Minor League Sports Facilities will be granted priority for projects due to the magnitude of the economic impact;
- Stadium, arena and ballpark developments and "major sports facility mixed-used projects" are eligible;
- Program administration and oversight by the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission, an organization with executive and legislative appointees and deep experience and expertise regarding public facilities.
- Funding up to 40% of total project costs from the State of Ohio.

Combining the Senate's proposed funding source with the Governor's allocation process will provide a sustainable and flexible way to invest in Ohio's sports venues to keep them competitive at a major league level and ensure that our facilities continue to drive economic vibrancy across the State for decades to come. The Commission may take a leading role in developing a long-term strategic plan that considers the age and condition of venues and the contribution of the team to the economic health of its community, while also being financially responsible.

We put forward this letter with a collective eye on balancing shared interests of the many stakeholders. This coalition of teams proudly represent our great State and work to show the world that Ohio is a state of champions – past, present, and future.

Thank you, again, for your leadership and for your consideration. We stand ready to collaborate with you to continue to promote economic development in Ohio.

Sincerely,



Jeff Berding
President & Co-CEO FC
Cincinnati



Phil Castellini
President and CEO
Cincinnati Reds




Brian Barren
President, Business Operations
Cleveland Guardians



Nic Barlage

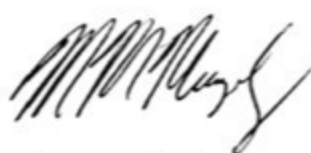
Rock Entertainment Group
& Cleveland Cavaliers



Michael A. Priest
President
CEO
Columbus Blue Jackets




Ken Babby
Owner & CEO
Akron RubberDucks



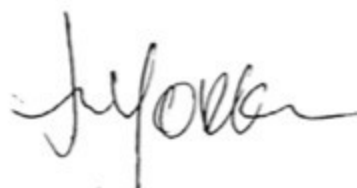
Michael Murphy
CEO
Cleveland Soccer Group



Tyler Parsons
President & General Manager
Columbus Clippers



Robert Murphy
President
Dayton Dragons



Jen Yorko
General Manager

Lake County Captains



Len Komoroski
Chairman/Managing Partner

Lake Erie Crushers



Jordan Taylor

Executive Vice President HWS Baseball
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Joseph Napoli
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