



April 5, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of professional minor league sports teams across the country, we are writing in support of the amendment to the COVID-19 supplemental bill offered by Senators Ben Cardin and Roger Wicker to provide much-needed relief for our teams. Teams in leagues across the spectrum of sports have lost tens of millions of dollars since the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and action is desperately needed now to protect these small businesses and safeguard their vital economic contributions to communities across the nation.

The first year of the pandemic was particularly devastating for professional minor league sports teams, with many losing more than 90 percent of their revenue during this first year alone as a result of mandated closures. These financial losses were compounded by challenges in year two including limited attendance, canceled games, and increased costs as teams worked to operate safely during the pandemic. As we enter year three of the pandemic, teams continue to grapple with decreased consumer confidence as a result of the COVID-19 variants, which is impacting ticket sales for the upcoming minor league baseball season and causing postponements and cancellations for the 2021-2022 minor league hockey season. So far this season, approximately 100 games have been postponed or canceled across the professional minor hockey leagues.

Our teams were excluded from previous relief packages enacted by Congress and therefore did not receive the help that was made available to other small businesses in the live entertainment industry. Unfortunately, our situation is only worsening as a result of the Omicron variant. While

we had hoped to be past the pandemic at this point, persisting variants have demonstrated that the pandemic is not yet over.

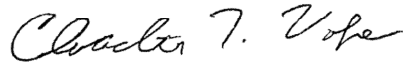
Research generally suggests that the presence of minor league sports teams is associated with an increase in per capita incomes, which often may stem from teams generating new spending by out-of-area visitors and encouraging residents to spend inside the local economy. Minor league sports franchises are pillars of the community and assets that our cities and industries need, not only for the economic impact they make on their communities and for the significant charitable efforts made in their markets, but also for their ability to draw in a strong workforce of individuals who call their cities home, and these small businesses continue to struggle to stay afloat in the absence of relief from Congress.

Our teams have been left behind and desperately need help now. We ask that you support the Cardin-Wicker amendment to provide critical relief for professional minor league sports teams in the COVID-19 supplemental. We appreciate your consideration of this request and your continued support of our teams.

Sincerely,



Jason Freier
Executive Board Member
Minor League Baseball



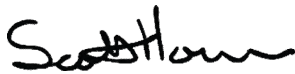
Chad Volpe
Executive Board Member
Minor League Baseball



Reid Ryan
Executive Board Member
Minor League Baseball



Ken Babby
Executive Board Member
Minor League Baseball



Scott Howson
President and Chief Executive Officer
American Hockey League



Ryan Crelin
Commissioner
ECHL



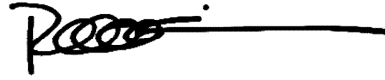
Doug Price
Commissioner
Southern Professional Hockey League



Alec Papadakis
Chief Executive Officer
United Soccer League



Joshua Schaub
Commissioner
American Association of Professional Baseball



Rick White
President
Atlantic League of Professional Baseball



Steve Tahsler
Deputy Commissioner
Frontier League of Professional Baseball



Mike Shapiro
President
Pioneer Baseball League



Dan Moushon
President
Appalachian League