



# MARYLAND STATE FAIR

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**March 25, 2021**

## **Testimony in support of HB 940 - Before the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee**

The Coronavirus pandemic has created a critical time for the Maryland State Fair, causing cancellation of events and untold lost revenue. This time, while challenging, has also allowed Maryland State Fair to step up and provide a great service to all Marylanders. The Fair is actively helping to combat the Coronavirus pandemic, providing for testing and vaccination on campus. The Fair also annually continues to host first responder's training and testing and provides a venue for 10,000 children to play youth sports.

While much is being done, the Fair wishes to do so much more. However, our facilities and infrastructure are in critical condition. The carnival midway, used for parking thousands of cars for Covid testing and vaccinations, collapsed weeks ago with yet another busted water pipe. The Administration building roof is continuing to leak on a space frequently used by first responders for training. The Veterinary Detention Barn roof has buckled and requires a new roof. The concrete and steel support structures are rusting and eroding in our Grandstand and Community Center. There is also lead paint remediation that needs to occur throughout the campus and the list goes on.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, led by volunteers, we need help now more than ever to continue our 141 years of service to the State of Maryland. A long-term revenue stream is needed that would address these long-term capital needs and continue to allow the Fairgrounds to provide service to the community. Sports wagering at the Maryland State Fairgrounds would provide such a solution. Thank you once again for your service and for your consideration of the great needs and the great contributions that exist at Maryland's own Maryland State Fairgrounds.

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