



**Written Testimony of Major League Baseball, the National Basketball Association,
and the PGA TOUR on Sports Wagering in Maryland**

**HB940 – Gaming – Regulation of Fantasy Gaming Competitions and Implementation
of Sports Wagering**

FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT

March 25, 2021

No one cares as much about the integrity of sports—or has as much at stake when it comes to the potential pitfalls of sports wagering—as the professional sports leagues. For this reason, we welcome the conversation on what a regulated sports betting market should look like in Maryland. In short, Maryland has the opportunity to accomplish its economic goals and provide fans a safe and legal way to wager on sporting events while protecting the integrity of the underlying competitions.

We support legalized sports betting, including a robust mobile sports betting marketplace, in Maryland that includes the following provisions, which we view as necessary to adequately safeguard the integrity of our contests.

First, we support measures that enable the detection and prevention of improper conduct relating to sports betting like cooperation with league investigations, mandatory alerts by gaming operators of unusual betting activity; eligibility requirements to prevent insiders from placing bets on their sports; and the ability for sports organizations to receive pseudonymous data from betting operators in real time to help us to detect anomalies indicative of improper conduct.

Second, sports leagues should have the ability to seek restriction of risky wagers on their contests. The leagues are best positioned to know what types of bets impose the greatest integrity risk to our games. The leagues therefore should have the ability to work with the regulator to identify and restrict wagers that present unusual integrity risks.

Third, sportsbooks should be required to use official league data to ensure the accuracy and consistency of betting outcomes, provided that the sports leagues make the data available on commercially reasonable terms. As operators increasingly offer in-game and proposition bets, maintaining reliable markets for these wagers becomes more complex and more essential to the stable operation of betting markets as a whole. Recently, Tennessee, Illinois, Michigan, and Virginia included official league data provisions in their sports betting laws, and we expect more states will do so in the coming year.

Our paramount responsibility is to protect the integrity of our sports. With the above elements, we believe that Maryland can achieve its economic development goals while safeguarding sports integrity, maintaining public confidence in the outcome of sports contests, and protecting consumers. We look forward to sharing statutory language that supports these goals and continuing to work with the committee and the legislature on this important issue.