



**LEGISLATIVE POSITION:**

**Favorable**

**House Bill 896**

**Maryland Stadium Authority – Increase of Bond Authorization – Camden Yards**

**House Appropriations Committee**

**Tuesday, March 15, 2022**

Dear Chairman McIntosh and Members of the Committee:

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 5,500 members and federated partners working to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic recovery and growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

HB 896 would increase the Maryland Stadium Authority's (MSA) bonding authority for sports facilities at Camden Yards Sports Complex. This will help MSA better address the future of Camden Yards as our teams seek to renew their commitment to the State and partner with MSA on long-term improvements.

These renovations will extend the life of the sport stadiums and show the Ravens and Orioles that MSA and the State are committed to providing best in class facilities for safety and fan experience. This will be vital to successful negotiations of agreements with these teams when seeking to keep them in Baltimore.

The Camden Yards Sports Complex is a critical source of revenue and is a valued tourist attraction to the state of Maryland. Businesses near this complex thrive when the stadiums do and benefit heavily from the increased foot traffic they attract. HB 896 is a great example of government policy that promotes and fosters business development.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests a **Favorable Report** on House Bill 896.