

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

November 19, 2019

Dear Commissioner Manfred,

We are writing to express our firm opposition to Major League Baseball's radical proposal to eliminate numerous Minor League Baseball clubs. If enacted, it would undermine the health of the minor league system that undergirds talent development and encourages fan loyalty. It would particularly be felt in areas far from a major league team or where tickets to a major league game are cost-prohibitive.

Tens of millions of fans attend Minor League Baseball games each season. These professional baseball clubs are vital components of our communities because they provide affordable, family-friendly entertainment to members of our communities, support scores of allied businesses, employ thousands of individuals, donate millions of dollars in charitable funds, and connect our communities to Major League Baseball. A number of these Minor League clubs operate at a loss but continue to persist due to strong fan support and club ownerships' commitment to their communities and America's Pastime.

The abandonment of Minor League clubs by Major League Baseball would devastate our communities, their bond purchasers, and other stakeholders affected by the potential loss of these clubs. We want you to fully understand the impact this could have not only on the communities we represent, but also on the long-term support that Congress has always afforded our national pastime on a wide variety of legislative initiatives.

For over a century, Congress has taken numerous actions specifically designed to protect, preserve, and sustain a system and structure for both Major and Minor League Baseball to flourish.

You are the most important steward of the great game of baseball and tasked with ensuring the popularity and love of it across the world. Reducing the number of Minor League Baseball clubs and overhauling a century-old system that has been consistently safeguarded by Congress is not in the best interest of the overall game of baseball, especially when Major League Baseball's revenues are at all-time highs.

As members of Congress who recognize the tremendous value of the Minor League system, we ask Major League Baseball to strongly reconsider its proposed course with Minor League Baseball and do all that it can to ensure the continuation of affiliated baseball in our communities.

Sincerely,



Lori Trahan



David B. McKinley

  
Mark Pocan

  
Elise Stefanik


  
David Trone

  
Rob Bishop

  
Tim Ryan

  
David P. Roe, M.D.

  
Max Rose

  
Scott R. Tipton

  
David Loeb sack

  
Denver Riggleman

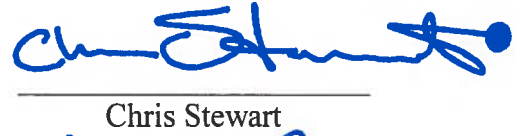
  
Joe Courtney

  
John Moolenaar

  
Jamie Raskin

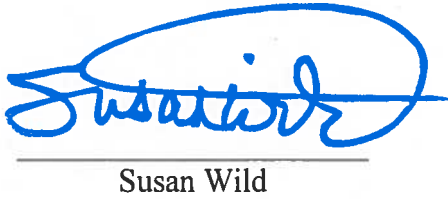
  
Andy Barr

  
William R. Keating

  
Chris Stewart

  
Deb Haaland

  
Mike Simpson

  
Susan Wild

  
Mark E. Green, MD

  
Joseph Morelle

  
Brian Fitzpatrick

  
Cindy Axne

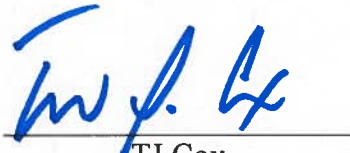
  
Michael R. Turner

  
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Marcy Kaptur

  
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Glenn "GT" Thompson


  
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Joe Cunningham

  
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David Kustoff

  
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TJ Cox


  
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Jim Banks

  
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Veronica Escobar

  
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Steve Womack

  
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Peter A. DeFazio

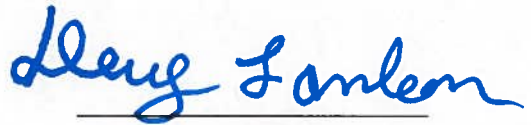
  
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Chuck Fleischmann

  
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Chrissy Houlahan

  
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Fred Keller



Lauren Underwood



Doug Lamborn



Brian Higgins



H. Morgan Griffith



Elissa Slotkin




Tim Burchett



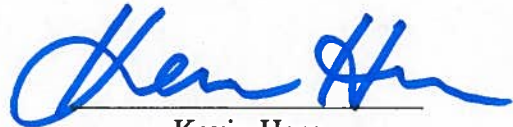
Sean Patrick Maloney



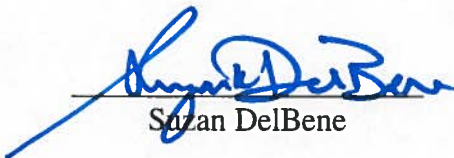
Mike D. Rogers



Joseph P. Kennedy, III



Kevin Hern



Suzan DelBene



John Katko




  
Ann McLane Kuster

  
Rick Crawford

  
Peter Welch

  
Mark Amodei


  
Anthony Brindisi

  
Mark Walker

  
Chris Pappas

  
Brett Guthrie

  
David Price

  
Carol D. Miller

  
John Yarmuth

  
Robert Aderholt

*Kathleen H. Rice*

Kathleen M. Rice

*Tom Reed*

Tom Reed

*Joyce Beatty*

Joyce Beatty

*Robert J. Wittman*

Robert J. Wittman

*Andy Levin*

Andy Levin

*Mike Kelly*

Mike Kelly

*Doris Matsui*

Doris Matsui

*French Hill*

French Hill

*Abby Finkenauer*

Abby Finkenauer

*Greg Gianforte*


Greg Gianforte

*John Garamendi*

John Garamendi

*David Joyce*

David Joyce



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Lloyd Doggett




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Markwayne Mullin



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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.



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Ted Budd



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Steven Horsford



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William R. Timmons IV



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Kurt Schrader



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Christopher H. Smith



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Jimmy Panetta



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Richard Hudson



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David N. Cicilline



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Michael Waltz



  
Jose Serrano

  
Ken Calvert

  
Marc Veasey

  
Brad R. Wenstrup

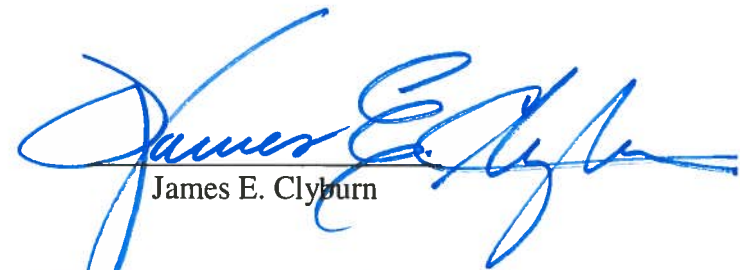
  
Dina Titus

  
Marcia L. Fudge

  
Lisa Blunt Rochester

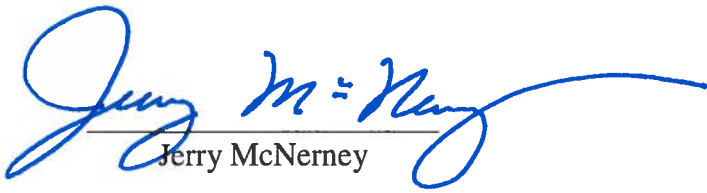
  
C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger

  
Suzanne Bonamici

  
James E. Clyburn

  
Antonio Delgado

  
Susie Lee

  
Jerry McNerney

  
Terri Sewell

  
Betty McCollum

  
Paul D. Tonko

  
Chellie Pingree

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Anthony G. Brown

A. Donald McEachin

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A. Donald McEachin

Kevin McCarthy

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Kevin McCarthy

CC:

Ken Kendrick	Managing General Partner	Arizona Diamondbacks
Terry McQuirk	Chairman	Atlanta Braves
Peter Angelos	Chairman of the Board/CEO	Baltimore Orioles
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Reed MacPhail	VP, League Economics & Operations	