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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

LABOR, DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN

December 4, 2019

Dear Commissioner Manfred and Deputy Commissioner Halem:

We are writing to voice our concern over recent news that Major League Baseball is considering cutting ties with the Erie SeaWolves.

Although we understand that any such plan is still in the preliminary stages, we feel compelled to speak out now, in light of the SeaWolves' special importance to our community and Erie's multi-million dollar investment in the team's stadium, which will make it one of the best in the Eastern League.

That project – already in its final phase and due to be completed by next year – demonstrates the depth of our community's commitment to maintaining Minor League Baseball in Erie and the degree to which our community is invested in this AA-listed team.

Erie's 25-year relationship with the SeaWolves runs deep. The team has provided years of affordable entertainment for Erie families and has become part of our regional identity and a strong source of pride.

Beyond providing a unique local connection to our National Pastime, having a Minor League Baseball team has been an important driver of Erie's economy, generating jobs, tax revenue and considerable traffic for other local businesses. In addition, the team supports many local philanthropic activities, from cancer and autism charities to youth sports and educational programs.

To cut MLB ties with the SeaWolves would be to remove an irreplaceable source of income for Erie, a reason for young residents to stay and raise families here, and a unique opportunity to enjoy professional baseball that would not otherwise exist in our corner of Pennsylvania.

It would also leave our community with the costs of maintaining a newly renovated, state-of-the-art stadium standing empty.

We respectfully ask that you reconsider the decision to cut ties to this beloved, AA-listed team and restore Erie's hope of continuing its long and cherished relationship with the SeaWolves for generations to come.

Respectfully,



Patrick J. Harkins
State Representative
1st Legislative District



Robert Merski
State Representative
2nd Legislative District



Ryan Bizzarro
State Representative
3rd Legislative District



Curt Sonney
State Representative
4th Legislative District