



JANICE MCGEACHIN

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

December 5, 2019

Robert D. Manfred Jr., Commissioner
The Office of the Commissioner of Baseball
245 Park Avenue, 31st Floor
New York, New York 10167

Dear Commissioner Manfred,

Idaho Falls is home to the Chukars, a Minor League Baseball affiliate of the Kansas City Royals. Like so many communities around the country, Idaho Falls benefits greatly from the team's presence due to the affordable, family-friendly entertainment it provides to members of our community. Additionally, the sport supports numerous allied businesses, is an important local employer, and helps support local charities.

Idaho Falls has hosted a professional baseball team since 1926, yet today this nearly century-old tradition is in jeopardy due to Major League Baseball's radical proposal to eliminate numerous Minor League Baseball clubs.

What is the value of a local professional baseball team? One value of a local team is providing unparalleled access to America's Pastime that Major League Baseball cannot hope to match.

The closest Major League Baseball team to Idaho Falls is the Colorado Rockies, but our local residents would have to travel 600 miles to visit Coors Field in Denver. Alternatively, they could opt for the 750 mile drive to visit the Mariners at T-Mobile Park in Seattle. Instead, thousands of local fans are able to attend Chukars games at Melaleuca Field, just a short walk from downtown Idaho Falls.

A similar story could be told regarding dozens of communities throughout the nation. Tens of millions of fans attend Minor League Baseball games each season. In fact, Minor League Baseball just completed its 15th consecutive season with more than 40 million attendees.

Minor League Baseball is critical to the success of Major League Baseball. Not only do these local teams provide the players and training that keep the Majors in business, but they also keep generation after generation of fans coming back to fill stadiums and enjoy games. We certainly do not want the great game of baseball to end up as another casualty of the millennial generation due to a lack of affordable local access.

What can we do to prevent the loss of these important resources to our local communities? Already, more than 100 members of Congress have signed a letter to MLB Commissioner Manfred expressing their strong opposition to Major League Baseball's plan to eliminate Minor League Baseball clubs in dozens of communities across the country.



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Now we, as members of Idaho's Executive Branch who recognize the tremendous value of Minor League Baseball, are calling on Major League Baseball to strongly reconsider its proposed course with Minor League Baseball and to do all that it can to ensure the continuation of affiliated baseball in our local communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Janice McGeachin in black ink.

Janice McGeachin
Lieutenant Governor

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Brad Little in black ink.

Brad Little
Governor