

1126 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
202-225-5261
202-226-3719 FAX



COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH SUBCOMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN
DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS,
AND RELATED AGENCIES SUBCOMMITTEE

TIM RYAN
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
13TH DISTRICT, OHIO
January 30, 2020

Mr. Rob Manfred
Office of the Commissioner of Baseball
1271 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10020

Dear Commissioner Manfred,

I am again writing to express my opposition to Major League Baseball's proposal to eliminate numerous Minor League Baseball clubs, including the Mahoning Valley Scrappers in my Congressional District. I would like to request time for us to meet, face-to-face, to discuss what the potential loss of the Scrappers would mean for the community I represent. For over 20 years, the Scrappers have provided our community with an affordable and fun way for families to enjoy the game of baseball and spend time together.

As I've previously written, the news that the MLB is discussing a reorganization that would eliminate the traditional affiliation with Major League Baseball held by the Scrappers and 41 other teams is deeply concerning. I hope you will consider reversing this decision. 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.

While these 42 teams are in the Minor Leagues, there is nothing minor about what they contribute to their respective communities. In addition to providing affordable family-friendly entertainment, these teams support scores of allied businesses, employ thousands of individuals, donate millions of dollars in charitable funds, and connect our communities to Major League Baseball.

Major League Baseball's proposal could negatively impact our communities, their bond purchasers, and other stakeholders affected by the potential loss of these clubs. I want you fully understand the impact this could have on my community, which is why I hope you accept my offer to meet.

The Scrappers have allowed our community to see future-major league all-stars up close, including Scrapper alumni Francisco Lindor, Victor Martinez, Jose Ramirez, and CC Sabathia. The owners of the Mahoning Valley Scrappers are committed to the team and to the Mahoning Valley. They continue to make investments in what is already a great facility, recently replacing the entire playing surface and building an addition to the clubhouse with a weight room and area for the players at a cost of almost \$600,000.

197 WEST MARKET STREET, SUITE 100
WARREN, OH 44481
330-373-0074
330-373-0098 FAX

241 WEST FEDERAL STREET, SUITE 311
YOUNGSTOWN, OH 44503
330-740-0193
330-740-0182 FAX

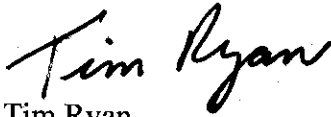
1030 EAST TALLMADGE AVENUE
AKRON, OH 44310
330-630-7311
330-630-7314 FAX

TOLL-FREE: 1-800-856-4152
WWW.HOUSE.GOV/TIMRYAN



As a Member of Congress who recognizes the tremendous value of the Minor League system, I ask Major League Baseball to reconsider this decision and do all that it can to ensure the continuation of affiliated baseball in the Mahoning Valley and in communities across the country. Again, I would very much like to deliver this message to you personally. I'm hopeful we are able to find time to meet to discuss what the Scrappers mean to the Mahoning Valley.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress