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June 8, 2021

Honorable Valerie Caproni
United States District Court
Southern District of New York
40 Foley Square, Room 240
New York, New York 10007

Dear Judge Caproni,

I stand in full support of the efforts to bring the Major League Baseball 2021 All-Star Game back to Truist Park in Atlanta, Georgia as was originally scheduled.

In July 2019, Major League Baseball announced that the 2021 All-Star Game would be held in Cobb County, Georgia at the home field of the Atlanta Braves, Truist Park. Having the All-Star game at Truist Park was welcome news, especially for the small businesses in the area who had been struggling financially due to the COVID-19 pandemic that had devastated many of their businesses. However, on April 2, 2021, MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred announced that MLB had made a sudden and irrational decision to move the All-Star Game from Truist Park to another location. That decision, according to the MLB Commissioner, was made to “demonstrate our values as a sport by relocating this year’s All-Star Game. Major League Baseball fundamentally supports voting rights for all Americans and opposes restrictions at the ballot box.” These statements and the decision to move the All-Star Game were made days after Georgia Governor Brian Kemp signed into law the Election Integrity Act, legislation which expands access to voting statewide and includes reforms to protect against voter fraud.

MLB’s decision to move the All-Star Game from the Atlanta area was, by the Commissioner’s own statements, a politically motivated decision, which would inevitably harm the people and businesses who had spent months preparing to welcome players and fans from around the nation. According to the Cobb County Travel and Tourism Bureau, MLB’s decision to move the All-Star game will cost local businesses more than \$100 million of lost business. However, many businesses had already spent significant money on services and materials preparing for the influx of guests to the park and the surrounding area.

MLB’s political decision to punish Georgia by moving the All-Star Game was an irrational and irresponsible act based on a false information campaign. Unfortunately, many high-profile individuals, including President Biden, echoed the false claims against Georgia without checking the facts. The Washington Post analyzed Georgia’s Election Integrity Act and found that “the net effect was to expand the opportunities to vote for most Georgians, not limit them.” The Washington Post also fact-checked many of the public statements made about the law and found

them to be false. Subsequently, the Washington Post issued a “four Pinocchio” rating on the statements President Biden made about the law.

MLB’s decision to move the All-Star game based on false information, which apparently no one at MLB bothered to verify, is having a drastic, negative economic impact on the people, businesses, and local governments in and around Truist Park.

I stand in full support of those calling for MLB to return the All-Star Game to Truist Park, or provide compensation to those who have been financially harmed by its decision to move the game.

Sincerely,



Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress