

Cincinnati Reds Written Submission

October 9, 2019

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

The Cincinnati Reds baseball franchise is proud of our 150-year history in Ohio. We employ over 1,000 full and part time team members, create an annual economic impact of \$320 million and donate nearly \$3 million a year back to the community through the Reds Community Fund, Reds Hall of Fame and donations to charities.

We join with Major League Baseball and their coalition partners the National Basketball Association, and the PGA TOUR in their position on sports betting and HB 194. Pointedly, we agree with Major League Baseball that legalized sports betting in Ohio must be done correctly, or we risk the integrity of our game and the goodwill of our fans. Therefore, without inclusion of a requirement that Ohio sportsbooks use official league data for in-play betting we must oppose HB 194.

Our priority in the sports betting discussion is protection of the millions of Reds fans in southern Ohio and across the state and country. Toward that end we were proud to host legislators, including members of the committee, to see how we collect data at Great American Ballpark. We use military grade technology to track everything that happens on the field during a game. The technology is supported by numerous MLB employees on-site in the stadium who are highly trained on data collection. The result is a secure and accurate system that provides a reliable data feed with only milliseconds of latency.

Alternatively, we have no insight into how or who is collecting data for unofficial or pirated sources. Inconsistent results from use of unofficial or pirated data sources for in-play betting, where speed and accuracy of data is of the utmost importance, will lead to Ohio consumer frustration and anger, ultimately damaging the goodwill of our fans with our club. Furthermore, when we don't know where the data that settles the bets comes from, we open the door to corruptive influences who may seek to improperly influence the outcome of our games. Finally, official league data differentiates a legal and regulated sportsbook in Ohio from illegal sports betting websites that operate today in the State and use unofficial or pirated data sources.

We urge the committee to consider an amendment to HB 194 that would require Ohio sportsbooks in a legal and regulated market to use official league data for in-play betting.