



**WM. Patrick Madden**  
*Mayor, City of Troy*

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November 24, 2020

Mr. Robert D. Manfred, Commissioner  
Major League Baseball  
The Office of the Commissioner of Baseball  
245 Park Ave, 31st Floor  
New York, NY 10167

**Re: Major League Baseball – Affiliation with Tri-City ValleyCats**

Dear Commissioner Manfred,

On behalf of the city of Troy, New York, I write today to express my strong support for New York-Penn League Champions Tri-City ValleyCats to maintain their affiliation with Major League Baseball and continued involvement in the minor league system.

For the last 18 years, the Tri-City ValleyCats have provided a fun, affordable experience for local baseball fans & families. Hundreds of thousands of spectators from across the Capital Region's four major counties (Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady) attend games at Joseph L. Bruno Stadium ("The Joe") each year. Average attendance is 4,196 fans per game, or 93% capacity, since 2010. As a result, the team has finished in the top 3 of New York-Penn League for average attendance since 2015. All told, approximately 2.5 million fans have attended a ValleyCats game since 2002.

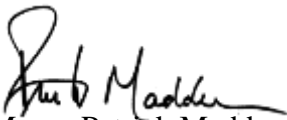
On the field, the ValleyCats have proven their reputation as a top-tier baseball club. Since 2008, the team has won the New York-Penn League Championship three times, and previously were 8-time Stedler Division Champions. Over 80 former ValleyCats have made it to Major League Baseball, an important indicator of the value the team brings to professional baseball.

The importance of the ValleyCats on our region extends beyond baseball, beginning with the team's economic impact which exceeding \$55 million. Including one year of operations, visitor benefits, and their multi-year capital improvement totals, the team's output helps create and maintain hundreds of local jobs while generating \$2.4 million in indirect business taxes and economic activity in the Capital Region.

Additionally, their charitable impact on local communities totals approximately \$500K, including financial contributions, volunteer efforts, donations of goods/services, and fundraising partnerships. Southpaw, the team's mascot, is one of our area's most recognizable faces, thanks to the ValleyCats 175+ community and fundraiser appearances with staff and players each year. Most notably, ValleyCats staff and partners have also renovated more than 40 youth baseball and softball fields throughout the Capital Region.

This team represents more than just baseball for the Capital Region – they are part of the fabric of our community. On behalf of the thousands of Collar City baseball fans, we urge you to consider maintaining Major League Baseball's affiliation of the Tri-City ValleyCats and preserve high-quality baseball in the Capital Region for years to come.

Thank you for your consideration on this important issue.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Madden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "M".

Mayor Patrick Madden  
City of Troy

**Cc:**

Morgan Sword, Executive Vice President of Baseball Economics & Operations, Major League Baseball