

November 20, 2001

Mr. Allan H. (Bud) Selig  
Commissioner of Baseball  
Office of Major League Baseball  
245 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10167

Dear Commissioner Selig:

On behalf of the mayors of cities with major and minor league baseball teams, we are writing to express our concerns over the recent action by Major League Baseball to eliminate, or contract, the number of major league teams.

While we recognize the need for Major League Baseball to maintain economic stability, we do believe that the proposals put forth to eliminate two teams would cause severe economic hardship to the communities as well as be a disservice to the thousands of fans in those communities.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National Football League jointly developed a list of principles to govern the future relocation of any professional football team. The principles which are now part of the NFL's policies. (See Attachment A). The adopted policy includes such issues as a community notification process and agreement allowing for adequate time for submission of alternative ownership proposals. We believe that a similar set of principles can be developed with Major League Baseball regarding the contraction or movement of teams.

We also encourage Major League Baseball to adopt a stadium financing program, similar to the NFL's, which allows owners to borrow money from the League to build stadiums. (See Attachment B). Such a loan program would help foster greater public-private partnerships in future baseball stadium constructions.

We would like to meet with you to discuss how our two organizations can work together to develop a set of principles to govern contraction or relocation efforts. Failure to establish such an agreement may cause us to look at other options, including proposed federal legislation.

We look forward to meeting you to discuss our ideas and ways to develop a stronger partnership between Major League Baseball, its fans, and our cities. Tom McClimon on the Conference of Mayors staff will follow up with your office to arrange a convenient time.

Sincerely,

[ signed ]

Marc H. Morial  
Mayor of New Orleans  
President

[ signed ]

Sharon Sayles Belton  
Mayor of Minneapolis  
Vice-Chair on Sports