



Dear Senator Grassley,

I would like to voice my grave concern for Major League Baseball's plan to contract 42 teams, with Burlington, Iowa being one of the teams named. Burlington has a rich history in baseball dating back to 1889. We are the smallest community to host full season, Minor League Baseball. We are a true representation of the term "America's Pastime". The amount and caliber of players that have played in Burlington, Iowa is tremendous. The fans that have been created in Burlington, Iowa over the last century have been endless.

This economic impact would be felt far and wide. On average, 2.7% of the population of Des Moines County attends Burlington Bees games, when comparing average attendance divided by county population for every team, that's the third-highest figure in the Midwest League. Last year, the Burlington Bees saw their average game attendance increase by 23%.

The Bees support 180 full-time jobs (directly and indirectly) in Des Moines County, representing approximately \$4.7 million in wages, the equivalent of 0.8% of jobs in Des Moines County.

The Burlington Bees are large consumers of products and services in Des Moines County. In addition to concessions and other items consumed during game days, visiting teams also spend thousands while in the community on lodging, meals, workout facilities, etc. The basic operations of the facility also generate expenditures in categories such as repairs, maintenance, and utilities. Significant advertising expense is also incurred by the baseball operation.

The Burlington Bees Baseball Association maintains a permanent local staff, as well as, temporary game day employees. In addition, the players and team staff maintain a presence in the community for approximately 6 months of the year. While the local employees and temporary game-related staff are paid out of the local operations budget, the players and coaching staff payroll is funded by the affiliate club and would therefore be a direct import of payroll dollars into the community.

The impact attendees and visitors have on the Burlington community is broken down into lodging (32%), entertainment, transportation, food, and shopping.

The Bees are very much a part of the community and have a large charitable impact. Each year the Bees donate thousands of dollars, in-kind gifts and volunteer hours to multiple community organizations and local nonprofits. Minor League Baseball is all about grass roots and giving back to the community; something we strive to achieve on a daily basis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KR", is located below the word "Sincerely,".

Kim Parker  
General Manager, Burlington Bees