

June 25, 2026

Statement of Support: Keeping the Preakness in Maryland Strengthens Our Economy

As President and CEO of Chesapeake Employers' Insurance Company and a member of the Greater Baltimore Committee Board of Directors, I strongly support the acquisition of the intellectual property rights associated with the Preakness Stakes and the effort to secure its future in Maryland.

The Preakness is more than a sporting event. It is one of Maryland's most recognizable brands, a source of statewide pride, and a powerful economic engine that generates jobs, supports tourism, promotes positive business activity. For generations, the event has helped showcase Maryland to a national and international audience while supporting thousands of workers and businesses throughout our region.

Preserving the Preakness in Maryland represents a strategic investment in our state's long-term economic vitality. Major events such as the Preakness attract visitors, drive spending across hospitality, retail, transportation, and entertainment sectors, and contribute to the vibrancy of our local communities. Maintaining control of this iconic asset helps ensure those economic benefits remain here in Maryland.

At Chesapeake Employers, our mission is centered on supporting Maryland employers and their workers as well as strengthening safe, healthy workplaces. A robust economy creates opportunities for businesses to grow, hire people, and invest in their employees. Efforts that protect and expand Maryland's economic competitiveness align closely with that mission.

I commend the leadership and vision behind this effort and believe it will deliver meaningful benefits for Maryland's economy, workforce, and communities for years to come.

Mark R. Isakson
President & CEO