



MARYLAND
Association of
COUNTIES

Senate Joint Resolution 1

2026 FIFA World Cup - Protection of Human Rights

MACo Position: **SUPPORT**

To: Judicial Proceedings Committee

Date: February 14, 2020

From: Kevin Kinnally

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** SJ 1. This joint resolution declares the General Assembly's support for Maryland's bid to host matches during the 2026 Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) World Cup. This is an historic opportunity to showcase our region, promote tourism, and stimulate economic growth.

Local governments, just like the State, have a vested interest in economic development. Based on data from previous tournaments, hosting World Cup matches would generate between \$350-\$450 million in economic activity across Maryland.

The 2026 World Cup will contribute directly to the growth of local, state, and national economies. This in turn creates jobs, contributes to enhancing quality of life, and expands the local tax base – enabling counties to better provide core services for Maryland families and businesses.

Accordingly, MACo urges the Committee to issue a **FAVORABLE** report for SJ 1.