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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

October 11, 2017

CHRISTOPHER R. HIXON, STAFF DIRECTOR
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The Honorable Elaine Duke
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Madam Acting Secretary:

I write to express my support of the application of the St. Louis Cardinals for certification under the Support Anti-Terrorism by Fostering Effective Technologies Act, known as the SAFETY Act, administered by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

As you know, the SAFETY Act was enacted as part of the Homeland Security Act of 2002. The Act provides legal liability protections to providers of qualified anti-terrorism technologies that can save lives in the event of a terrorist attack through implementation their technologies. The liability protections eligible for the SAFETY Act certification apply to technologies including products, services, software, and other forms of intellectual property.¹ A SAFETY Act certification can also be applied to the integrated security system of a sports team, league, or entertainment venue that uses these anti-terrorism technologies.

The Cardinals submitted their application in July and it is currently under review by DHS officials in the SAFETY ACT office. My committee staff has received briefings by the director of the SAFETY ACT office and other DHS officials, the director of security for the Cardinals, and outside counsel advising the team on their application.² In the course of these briefings, our staff has learned about numerous security improvements that the Cardinals are undertaking. The team has the presence of both county and metropolitan city police in the stadium during game day, and the Cardinals continue to foster close working relationships with local law enforcement agencies and government officials. The Cardinals have begun to conduct background checks on

¹ Department of Homeland Security, Briefing with Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Minority Staff (June 7, 2017); *Mitigating Risk with the SAFETY Act*, Department of Homeland Security (June 7, 2017).

² Department of Homeland Security, Briefing with Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Minority Staff (June 7, 2017); *Mitigating Risk with the SAFETY Act*, Department of Homeland Security (June 7, 2017); Phil Melcher, Director of Security, St. Louis Cardinals, LLC., Director of Security, Briefing with Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Minority Staff (May 11, 2017); Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Minority Staff, Meeting with Ali Akmal, Principal, Catalyst Partners (Aug. 25, 2017).

all employees, including those working for third party vendors.³ The team's security division continues to provide trainings on terrorism awareness and preparation to all members of the Cardinals staff, including the president of the team.⁴ Additionally, the Cardinals recently upgraded their perimeter hardening, established an advanced mail screening program, and originated a new K-9 program.⁵

I commend the Cardinals' desire to participate in this DHS program that is designed to make the players, staff, and fans safer. As you proceed through this evaluation, I urge you to give the Cardinals application for SAFETY ACT certification full consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if I am able to serve as a resource.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
Ranking Member

cc: Ron Johnson
Chairman

William O. DeWitt Jr.
Owner
St. Louis Cardinals

³ Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Minority Staff, Meeting with Ali Akmal, Principal, Catalyst Partners (Aug. 25, 2017).

⁴ Phil Melcher, Director of Security, St. Louis Cardinals, LLC., Director of Security, Briefing with Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Minority Staff, (May 11, 2017).

⁵ Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Minority Staff, Meeting with Ali Akmal, Principal, Catalyst Partners (Aug. 25, 2017).