

STATEMENT OF AUSTIN J. BURKE
ON BASEBALL IN NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Baseball is good for Northeastern Pennsylvania and good for Northeastern Pennsylvania's economy.

The Lackawanna County Stadium and the thousands of visitors to the New York Yankees Triple A baseball team in Northeastern Pennsylvania adds to the attractiveness of our region as a tourism destination. It complements the many other attractions that include the Anthracite Heritage Museum, the Lackawanna County Coal Mine, the Electric City Trolley Station and Museum, the Steamtown National Historic Site and our many museums and art venues.

These visitors, collectively, generate millions of dollars of revenue for our restaurants, retail stores, gas stations and other service businesses. These increased sales that are generated, in turn, provide significant tax revenues for Lackawanna County and each of its municipalities. The hotel business generated by overnight visitors to the ballpark also triggers another important source of income for Lackawanna County; its hotel tax.

In addition, construction of the new stadium will increase employment at a time when it is sorely needed to provide work for our building trades and will provide design and consulting employment for our architects and engineers and sales for our suppliers.

Finally, baseball provides a lift to the spirits of the thousands of fans that are avid followers of the sport. The new stadium and the New York Yankees contribute to a sense of optimism and well-being as Northeastern Pennsylvania participates in our great national pastime.

In conclusion, community-wise and business-wise, baseball is good for Northeastern Pennsylvania and for our economy.

04/25/2012