



**RESTAURANT
ASSOCIATION
METROPOLITAN
WASHINGTON**
Serving The Nation's Dining Capital.

PUBLIC HEARING ON MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

**COUNCILMEMBER JACK EVANS
CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE OF FINANCE AND REVENUE**

TESTIMONY

**Paul Cohn
Senior Executive Officer and Co-Founder
Capital Restaurant Concepts, LTD**

Thursday June 12, 2003

Good Morning Councilperson Evans, Councilmembers and staff. My name is Paul Cohn, Senior Executive Officer and Co-Founder of Capital Restaurant Concepts, LTD and caring community and business advocate. I am member of the Board of Directors of the Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington and serve on the Executive Committee as an at-large representative. I also serve on the Board of the Washington Convention Center Authority and the Washington Convention and Tourism Corporation, the Federal City Council, the Georgetown Partnership.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony before your committee today on my support for bringing Major League Baseball to the District of Columbia.

I was an early supporter of efforts to build a new convention center and am proud of the final result. This magnificent structure is proving to be a major success reaping financial rewards to the District of Columbia's coffers and thus benefiting all DC citizens.

I feel the same about the Mayor's efforts to bring Major League Baseball back to the Nation's Capital. Washington, DC is a major world-class city and as such deserves a baseball team. DC is America's City as Baseball is America's Sport; we are as American as apple-pie, as is Baseball.

Civic pride is surging in Washington, DC and we have a lot to be proud of. The MCI Center, restaurants and hotels have brought about a remarkable burgeoning of our downtown, with a 24-hour living neighborhood in a beautiful urban oasis now a reality. Baseball and a new stadium will continue the growth of our vibrant city. Businesses and citizens will prosper.

I have devoted my life to the hospitality industry and to the metropolitan Washington area and I firmly believe that since DC is a Major League City, we should have a Major League Baseball team. It is a win-win situation with benefits for all. I applaud Mayor Williams, Deputy Mayor Eric Price and their staffs for the excellent job that are doing and for their vision of Baseball in America's hometown. I also wish to express my appreciation to the Council of the District of Columbia for all their hard work and fiscal oversight that has also helped toward the city's current revitalization of spirit, in reality and in perception. Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to appear before your committee and for all your efforts on behalf of the city's business community and hospitality industry.