

April 18, 2023

City of Columbia
City Council
PO Box 6015
Columbia, MO 65205

Re: Letter of support for the construction of the Columbia Sports Fieldhouse phase II

Dear Columbia City Council:

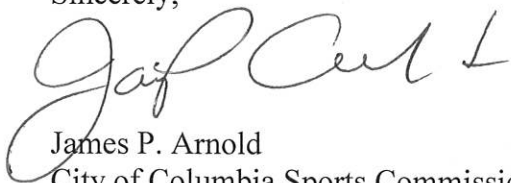
On behalf of the Columbia Sports Commission, I am submitting this letter in support of the expansion of the Columbia Sports Fieldhouse. The Columbia Sports Commission was established to advise the Convention and Visitors Bureau with efforts to recruit state, regional and national sporting events, as well evaluate Columbia as a sports tourism destination.

Columbia Sports Fieldhouse serves an essential role in sports tourism landscape of Columbia. In 2014, the facility was identified as a major need in the Sports Community Assessment conducted by Aquarius Sports and Entertainment, and Victus Advisors. The goal of the assessment was to provide a road map that would make Columbia a premier sports tourism destination in the Midwest.

After analyzing data through comparative analysis, online surveys, focus groups and one-on-one interviews, the consultants' recommendations included a multi-sport indoor facility, which did not exist at that time. This recommendation led to the construction of the four-court Sports Fieldhouse, which helps enhance Columbia as a sports tourism destination and offers court space for local teams and schools.

The expansion of the Columbia Sports Fieldhouse to eight courts would continue to drive the growth of sports tourism, helping the City achieve its sports tourism goal set in 2014. We are excited about these opportunities and we endorse this important project for our community. Thank you.

Sincerely,



James P. Arnold
City of Columbia Sports Commission Chair
Director of Athletics
Columbia College