



June 4, 2021

Mr. Chuck Klous  
President  
Indoor Track Delaware  
2100 N. Grant Avenue  
Wilmington, Delaware 19806

Dear Indoor Track Delaware:

As president of New Castle County Chamber, we pride ourselves as an organization that helps businesses grow, network and market opportunities. We understand the importance of advocating and working with our local and state governments to create economic prosperity and enhance the quality of life here in New Castle County.

Should an indoor track/sports center be built in New Castle County, the New Castle County Chamber would support it.

As the Executive Summary and Public Presentation of Indoor Track Delaware's (ITD) market demand study reveal, the public need for an indoor track and regional market demand are real. There is no 200 meter indoor banked track with spectator seating for 3,500 within a two (2) hour drive of Wilmington. Within a forty-five minute drive of Wilmington there are 2.5 million people, a region filled with scores of college and high school track teams looking for an indoor banked track in which to compete. And when ITD analyzed Delaware's high school winter sports (basketball, wrestling, track & field and volleyball) they found 7,000 high school Delaware athletes would benefit from such a multi-purpose venue.

After reading the online Summary and Presentation, we argue New Castle County should take advantage of its geographic comparative advantage in the northeast corridor and the market opportunity of indoor track. One that'll promote economic growth across multiple Delaware business sectors through sports tourism. If an indoor track/sports center were to be built in southern New Castle County, for example in Middletown, it would be just an hour and 45 minutes from Washington, DC; one hour and twenty five minutes from Baltimore, MD; and just over an hour from Philadelphia, PA.

Each winter, tourism to Delaware drops off dramatically in all three counties, particularly here in New Castle County. Should an indoor track/sports center be built in our County, we'd reverse that trend as thousands of competitors and their families would visit Delaware on weekends throughout the winter months of indoor track season. We would get an additional infusion of tourists as the nationally renowned "Beast of the East" wrestling tournament will have a permanent December home and "the Beast" would be an even bigger tournament, growing from 11 mats to 20. Even better, throughout the rest of the calendar year, volleyball, wrestling and basketball will all be able to host large tournaments, clinics and camps.

If a 200 meter indoor track were built with seating of 3,500, the ITD study found it would generate hundreds of jobs and \$41 million in economic impact, \$9.5 million in the lodging industry, over \$15 million in food and beverage (restaurants) industries, and \$6.6 million in Delaware's tax free shopping. If a 200 meter indoor track was built with seating of 3,500, and also had ten (10) basketball courts/fifteen (15) volleyball courts connected to it, the venue would generate hundreds of jobs and \$58 million in total economic impact.

To be sure, we understand the market demand study commissioned by ITD analyzed economic impact statewide. So, we'd support further efforts to analyze specific locations in New Castle County in order to discover where the most economic impact would take place, and the development of conceptual design drawings so we'd have a better idea as to what the venue would look like.

We at the New Castle County Chamber are well aware that any undertaking like this will require cooperation between state and local governments, as well as Delaware's for profit and philanthropic sectors. We believe by launching an innovative project like an indoor track/sports center, we could give our local economy a post-pandemic boost to the lodging, food & beverage, and retail shopping industries all year round, and enhance the quality of life for all Delawareans.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Chadwick  
President  
New Castle County Chamber of Commerce