

## **Community Support for the ABQ Regional Baseball / Softball Complex:**

*“A Regional Baseball Complex will bring brand-new jobs to Albuquerque, it will mean more travel dollars spent within our state and it will help our struggling private sector by creating opportunities for economic growth and development. Arizona is a prime example of how a state can use youth baseball facilities to grow the local economy. New Mexico families and families from many surrounding states have been spending millions of dollars traveling to Arizona, Colorado, Utah and Texas to spend money on tournaments. It’s time that New Mexico, with its wonderful climate and tourism possibilities, open its doors and participate in the huge money maker that youth sports creates. Let’s Go!”— Jackie Bregman*

*“A five-field lighted facility with a synthetic playing surface allows tournaments to be played and finished. Many large tournaments that we have traveled to out of state have been “washed out” or shortened due to wet weather. A five-field lighted complex allows for 50 teams to participate over a four day period. Forty of those teams would require hotel nights at a minimum of 10 per team. If my math is correct that is 40 teams times 10 rooms per night, times four nights = 1600 room nights per event. Eight to 10 of these events could be played yearly making the economic impact on Albuquerque tremendous! If you include UNM’s Lobo Field and with the recent success of Coach Birmingham’s Lobos...increase those numbers!” — Ryan Brewer - Co-Owner Albuquerque Baseball Academy.*

*“Albuquerque has the best weather in the Southwest, and is one of the few cities in New Mexico that does not have a baseball complex for the community to use for non-high school league age play or tournament play. Our children must find places to play on even though we have been paying taxes on those facilities for years. The city of Albuquerque would benefit by hosting weekly tournaments and national tournaments bring visitors to our city. An example is the High Desert Classic, where over fifty teams come to play and spend over 200 room nights plus food and entertainment not to mention paying gross receipts taxes, over a four day period. This would also elevate Albuquerque as being one of the destination cities for baseball tournaments in the Southwest. Currently, teams go to Arizona, and Texas and bypass New Mexico. This complex could also host softball tournaments and be featured in the US. Chuck Sheldon, Director AABC, Associate Scout Los Angeles Angles.” —Chuck Sheldon, Director AABC, Associate Scout Los Angeles Angles*

*“Bottom line: on top of the economic benefits (ask Steamboat Springs), college and pro scouts don’t come here because there simply isn’t enough talent in a central location. This is the foundation to change this! Cities ¼ the size of Albuquerque have made this investment in the community and their youth. You want kids to stay off the streets, give them something positive to do. We spent \$100,000 playing baseball someplace else.”—Arlan Swihart*

*“We have an ideal climate for the sport, and with the right management approach it could boost our attraction for regional competition. In addition, the city as a whole could better accommodate the growing talent pool that is being fostered by Little League, High School, College and Professional baseball!”—Keith Dotson*

*“Albuquerque desperately needs more baseball facilities to help with the growing demand of the amazing baseball culture in New Mexico. Often times, many teams are scrambling to find a practice facility and to even negotiate a field to have games. Albuquerque is an amazing place to host tournaments due to the great weather. Hosting tournaments would then stimulate the local economy*

*with all the families traveling to Albuquerque for tournaments. This simply means revenue for Albuquerque from hotels to restaurants, and more.” —Dusty Lucy*

*“It is important to have a regional baseball complex in Albuquerque because we have the weather and interest in drawing competitive baseball teams and organizations to play here. We spend thousands of dollars to play in other states...why not let them come here!! The benefits are endless! Most important would be the revenue for our state and our local businesses, as well as the recognition and recruitment of our local baseball players!”—Katy Bobick*

*“Albuquerque is a great destination for outdoor activities due to the mild weather for most of the year. Our problem is we do not have enough good baseball facilities, and the few we do have are spread out to where it makes it hard to move on a timely basis. A central complex would be great to host events and bring more revenue to Albuquerque.” —Kyle Zottnick*

*“Obviously many benefits exist to having a regional baseball facility. The opportunities for local youth to participate in sports provide tremendous return via the interaction, competition and commerce, not to mention the ability to take place in a safe haven for our children. The ability to positively occupy time in sport provides a distraction from many of the negative influences and actions of the idle mind for our region’s youth. The healthy benefits of competition and teamwork in an age of non-verbal communication via social media will sharpen communication and the ability to work and speak with others. Lastly, the potential to host events that will provide an opportunity for local businesses cannot be ignored. Hotels, restaurants, and shopping venues will all benefit from a complex that can be utilized year ‘round. Money that our constituents spend traveling to events in Arizona and Texas can be spent at home and kept within our own community. I appreciate your consideration and could spend hours detailing the benefits of such a complex.” —Buddy Gouldsmith, Assistant Coach University of New Mexico*

*“Albuquerque (and Rio Rancho) struggles with providing fields for practice and games for a growing baseball community. There are many baseball/sports talents here that need promotion, guidance, and recognition. Not only would a new sports complex benefit the large number of children playing baseball (and other sports) but it would benefit the city of Albuquerque and the surrounding metro areas by hosting more tournaments, thus promoting revenue, and recognition. New Mexico has great potential.”—Claudia Alfaro-Andrick*

*“Long overdue.”—Kevin Davis*

*“It will bring big tournaments and revenue to Albuquerque. It would help improve quality of baseball and opportunity for kids and adults to play. That all the smaller cities in NM have complexes and ABQ doesn’t is a shame. All you find is Softball Softball Softball.” — Orlando Griego, Metro High School Coach*

*“It will give the opportunity to have our local and statewide baseball players to show their skills without going out of town, bring college coaches in from across the country, and just bring in tournaments and revenue for the city of Albuquerque, which is huge.”—David Valdez*

*“Exposure...Exposure...Exposure!!! It would bring in colleges around the US and show them the talent of our young players – not to mention the money it would bring into the city. Albuquerque, New Mexico, is way overdue.” -Noel Baca Jr.*

*“Our city needs a facility complex like this. Currently we have to share fields with little leagues etc. Albuquerque could host tournaments resulting in revenue for our city. We have to travel for major tournaments currently. Albuquerque/New Mexico does not offer a baseball complex like those out of state. Why not strive to offer the best for youth and our city. Invest in our youth and our city!”—Ann Marie Leyba*

*“Bring in better competition for kids so they get better. And also bring in more scouts to see them. Let's face it, New Mexico is overlooked athletic-wise; there is major young talent here and many kids don't get to showcase it because scouts rarely look this way. Plus, more fields means more time at the fields and less time for kids to get in trouble.”—Michael Holmes*

*“Having these facilities will give USSSA teams a real field to actually practice on instead of practicing at indoor cages, parks, or little leagues only on Sundays. Finding practice facilities was always the hardest part about coaching.”—Joe Diz*

*“Having these facilities would not only benefit players and coaches but the community as a whole. These facilities would make Albuquerque relevant in the Southwest.”—Mark Crandall*

*“Building the Baseball Complex would create a centralized location for games, which would minimize the amount of travel throughout the city of Albuquerque, thus allowing parents who have children on different teams and age groups to attend games.”—Yartiza Santiago*

*“The financial economic impact on restaurants, hotels, shopping, and entertainment is why it's important!”—Levi Fetty*

*“It would improve the quality of life for youth and families. Studies have proven that Regional Parks are a must for ALL municipalities. Other benefits for the city job growth and development for locals, revenue through fees from daily activity, revenue through tourism for city via taxes, hotel revenue, food and beverage etc.”—Charlie Bombach*

*“Albuquerque's climate, location and size make it an ideal spot to attract local, state, and regional visitors to play tournaments throughout the year.”—Rich Hunt*

*“This makes Albuquerque a desirable venue to host major youth/high school baseball tournaments in the NM, AZ, CO and West Texas region.”—Robert Lin*

*“It is very important to have these fields built for our kids to always have a place to play ball and stay out of trouble. This would bring many visitors to Albuquerque therefore more revenue for us as well.”—Bernadette Saiz*

*“This will provide New Mexico kids with a first class place to learn and play while competing with other states for tournament/tourism revenues wherein teams from other states come to us rather than us always taking our tournament dollars to AZ, NV or CO!”—Carolyn Ramos, Baseball Mom*

*“The city of Albuquerque would benefit by hosting weekly tournaments and national tournaments that bring visitors to our city. An example is the High Desert Classic, where over fifty teams come to play and spend over 200 room nights plus food and entertainment, not to mention paying gross receipts taxes,*

*over a four-day period. This would also elevate Albuquerque as one of the destination cities for baseball tournaments in the Southwest. Currently, teams go to Arizona, and Texas and bypass New Mexico. This complex could also host softball tournaments and be featured in the US.” — Glen Braybrooks*

*“A regional baseball complex is needed to take pressure off other city and local school facilities that have become over-used in order to accommodate the growing population and popularity of the sport. Little League, school, and club ball alone can overwhelm local fields. Our youth need more safe outlets for activities that keep them out of trouble. Right now two of our neighboring states, AZ and TX, which have extremely hot conditions, host tournaments and events that beautiful ABQ could host and benefit from. Hotel stays, restaurants, fuel stations, airport fees, and just about any local entertainment businesses can benefit from a constant flow of families coming by the hundreds to these events.” Michael Walker, Albuquerque Resident*

*“With a Regional Baseball Complex, Albuquerque would be able to compete with larger cities in other states for large tournaments. It would show kids that Albuquerque cares about their futures.” —Michelle Herron*

*“A baseball complex attracts players, families, coaches, and scouts from other areas of the Southwest, enriching our economy as these families will spend \$\$ here for tournament trips here to Albuquerque. It puts Albuquerque and the surrounding area on the map in the baseball community within the Southwest. It would also provide for and encourage participation in team sports in and around our community. Increases the quality of life for many - baseball is very big in this area of the Southwest and we should have a venue that is more appealing to and more convenient for our community, coaches, players, parents as well as surrounding states that will come to this facility over the next several years.” —Peggy Pena & Rich Ware*

*“This will give local players another option to shorten travel distances during regular season play and have hometown fields for play and practice. It will also provide tournaments that bring more college and professional scouts into the Metro Area to give our children better opportunities for scholarships and professional careers. A Regional Baseball Complex would boost local revenue through 2-3 day tournaments by bringing players and their families into the region. Out of town guests will rent hotels and both locals and visitors will eat/shop at ABQ metro businesses during and after the tournaments. Out of town guests will often stay before or after the tournament to vacation and sightsee.” — Maria Rael*

*“Albuquerque is the only major metropolitan area in the Region without a baseball complex. The need clearly exists for our youth, and older citizens. Albuquerque measures itself in a variety of ways by comparing itself to other metro areas — lodging, air quality, healthcare and recreation. We are behind in recreation access and this project would align with the long term strategic growth plan for the area.” — Doug Smith*

*“As this facility grows in popularity (quickly), local and regional use will grow, and tournament activity will grow, which will bring intermittent economic activity. In addition, this will accelerate commercial development in the area. All of these factors will increase GRT to the city. USSSA baseball had a 2015 economic impact of \$9.6 million in Rio Rancho and Albuquerque. USSSA is projecting 10.2 million in 2016. This is done with the sub-par fields we have today.” —Rick Day*

*"It is important to Albuquerque to have a Regional Baseball complex in order to foster the development of youth sports in the Albuquerque area and to demonstrate that Albuquerque is a progressive, forward-looking destination both for travel and permanent residency. At present, we fall FAR behind other regional, municipal complexes like El Paso, Phoenix, Denver, Dallas and Las Vegas when it comes to the availability of quality public facilities which may be used to develop players' skills and progress as baseball players. As such, often-times Albuquerque (as well as its populous) is overlooked in favor of other municipal areas as both an area to visit and live and an area to recruit quality baseball players. Benefits include: 1) increased revenues from tourism as teams from other areas would be more inclined to travel to alternative venues than those currently available in Phoenix, Denver, Dallas and Las Vegas, 2) increased revenues from teams that would remain here to play baseball, 3) a venue where state-wide high school teams could compete in local, regional and state tournaments with corresponding benefits to local commerce, and 4) an improved recognition of Albuquerque as being a place where youth baseball and the overall quality of life is promoted, supported and encouraged. At present, Albuquerque loses out on tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of dollars of revenue due to teams leaving the metro area to play quality competition elsewhere and suffers from a poor reputation as a quality place to live and raise children due to an overwhelming lack of quality, municipal infrastructure calculated to benefit local area youth and families. Adding this type of infrastructure to the City would greatly assist in Albuquerque being perceived as the beneficial and wonderful place to live and visit that it truly is." —Matthew Pullen*

*"I feel it is very important for Albuquerque to have a regional baseball complex as it is very difficult for our young athletes to find playing fields within the City and makes it difficult to organize games and tournaments due to drive time and separation of fields etc. A regional complex will be more favorable for scouts to be able to come to our city and watch more of our NM athletes play and increase opportunity for our youth to pursue advancement to continue educational goals and will help create better individuals for our future. This will create great leaders for our community." —Thelma DiBartolemo*

*"It is important for Albuquerque to have a regional baseball complex for our kids to have more opportunity to get involved in positive activities and provide for more tournaments and thus revenue for our city. A complex of this type would reflect positively to the public and surrounding states. We need more positive opportunities in Albuquerque for our youth and adults. The benefits to the city are numerous and include more than just what's listed. Some benefits are: Increased revenue from outside teams coming to Albuquerque for games, less youth looking for entertainment in the wrong places, a positive reflection upon the city. Albuquerque needs to keep up with what our youth needs to make strides in a positive direction. I fully support the building of a regional baseball complex." —Dena Melo*

*"Albuquerque is a growing community with many other highly functional outdoor facilities; the recent build of the Westside Community stadium is the perfect example of growth. It is time to build a baseball facility similar to those we offer other sports, such as the Bernalillo Soccer Complex, Multiple outdoor football arenas, and multiple sites for basketball throughout the year. Large facilities can accommodate large events, promoting tourism and monetary gains in our city. Just one team visiting our city brings approximately 12 players, 12 families staying in hotels, 12 families eating in and touring our town...." —Callie and Nick Lovato*

*"It is important for ABQ to have a regional baseball stadium so USSSA teams will have a place to play games without having to rely and wait on little league fields that are being used most days of the week. ABQ would benefit greatly financially from having a regional baseball stadium. More tournaments would be able to come to town, bringing more teams from out of town. These teams will need hotel rooms and*

*be eating out (increasing the financial impact on the city). More tournaments in town will also offset the cost of the stadiums.” — Genny Walker*

*“The need is enormous as the city continues to grow and prosper. We fail our youth if we do not provide them with a location that will allow them to grow and better their skills. Additionally, Albuquerque is a central location in the Southwest and can draw teams from areas like, Phoenix, Denver, Amarillo, Dallas, El Paso and many others that would bring revenue into the state.” — Kevin Bruno, Albuquerque Resident*

*“Currently there is a lack of youth baseball fields in Albuquerque. A sports complex could help in remedying that situation and would help draw more out of state youth baseball teams to come play tournaments in Albuquerque.” — Thomas Hynes*

*“It is very important to have a place for kids of all ages to be involved in playing sports. Currently there is no such place in Albuquerque. We have great weather for tournaments. Currently we travel to Texas and Arizona. If we had a complex the city could attract these tournaments.” — Jonathan Lackner*

*“It would give the opportunity to have our local and statewide baseball players to showcase their skills without going out of town, and it will bring college coaches in from across the country. It will also be bringing in tournaments and revenue for the City of Albuquerque which is huge... Baseball is a very big deal in the City of Albuquerque. There a lot of dollars getting spent out of town and I'm talking thousands and thousands of dollars that we are giving to other states when we could be keeping all of that here locally.” — David Valdez*

*“Albuquerque has a thriving baseball community. Currently we have to travel to Arizona or Texas or Colorado for tournaments. If we have a good facility here we can get people to come here for tournaments. Our weather during the summer is ideal for tournaments. Increased visitor traffic would mean more restaurant sales, more hotel nights, and increased gross receipts taxes – players, immediate family, friends would travel here.” — Joe Standley*

*“Albuquerque has a nationally recognized baseball program in the Albuquerque Baseball Academy. This program develops young players and through the leadership of Ryan Brewer and Mike Foote, and is able to place players from junior colleges through college powerhouse programs and into professional baseball. These program leaders are personally known to scouts and coaches through this spectrum of baseball. I know; my son was placed at an extremely high academic university and baseball program solely due to ABA. HOWEVER, Albuquerque does not have a regional baseball complex to support this program. I travel from Lubbock, Texas, due to the quality of the program. However, player development is limited by the lack of fields and facilities. Through the ABA program I have traveled to most large baseball cities in Texas, Arizona, California, and Colorado. These cities have centralized baseball facilities that Albuquerque lacks. If Albuquerque continues to compete in sports development, then it must have facilities to support the excellent programs it has. The city must support this initiative. The city will realize huge income to all areas of the economy when tournaments are being held at the facility. Hotels benefit from 3-4 day tournaments that host several hundred athletes and a similar number of adults. Similarly, the restaurants realize significant profits, as do the other merchants. I know; the income from athletic events to the city of Lubbock since they did a development easily paid the return on investment in a few years when the analysis was all in. The complex will attract not only participants and supporters from the state, but from the region. It would be short-sighted not to approve the project. As a visitor to Albuquerque for tournaments over the past five years, I have contributed significantly to the economy of*

*the city. It would be much more if these facilities were present.” -Paul D. Walter, MD, FACC, VP Cardiovascular Services, Covenant Health, Lubbock, Texas*

*“Youth sports in America have continued to grow year over year. Family vacations now revolve around the children in the family and the sports that they play. It is the perfect environment for parents to enjoy watching their children and have social interaction with adults with the same interests. The major youth baseball events are located and played on opposite ends of the country, thus making it difficult for teams from one coast to travel to the other coast or Arizona. Albuquerque is a central point that could draw from all areas of the country. Also, its proximity to California, Arizona, and Texas provide an economical way to travel and play baseball against fresh competition in a baseball-friendly climate. The economic impact would be significant. Hotels, rental car companies, restaurants, and airlines could see a significant economic boost revolving around big events at the complex. It is the one industry that avoids economic downturn. The last thing that parents stop spending money on is their kids. This is a major reason for the explosion of youth sports event through the economic downturn of 2007-2008. The City could ensure economic stability for their patrons and businesses during these events.” -Lynn Vanlandingham – Dallas – President of Five Tool Showcases*

*“There is not a safe place for the youth of ABQ to ‘play’ with their peers. A Regional Baseball Complex would offer the opportunity to our children to congregate and be active in the sport that they love. There are more baseball teams in ABQ than the little league fields, parks, and community centers can accommodate for regular practices, games, and impromptu scrimmages. The possibility to host regional baseball tournaments and invite teams from the surrounding areas (TX, AZ, CO), and the possibility to host/rent the facility during school hours to the business community at large for various teaming or business events are other benefits.” Krystal L. Aldridge*

*“This complex will allow local teams and players who can't afford to travel for tournaments in Arizona, Texas and Colorado to play against high quality competition. In this way local kids in lower income brackets get the kind of exposure that can lead to scholarships, higher education and economic improvement. Add to that the increased effect on the local business economy from out of state teams coming to town for tournaments and this complex is a no-brainer! It's high time this thing got built.” -Mike Walla*

*“The money spent on hotels and merchants is huge. These tourneys are huge and most teams travel to Albuquerque from great distances. The economic impact is worth millions of dollars to the local economy. The importance of having a regional baseball tourneys is we would be able to host large baseball tourneys. Plenty of fields. The weather is also a huge factor. You really cant play tourneys in Phoenix in the summer time. Albuquerque would be able to take huge advantage of the weather issue. Albuquerque is somewhat easy to get to from throughout the region. We can go on and on about the advantage. No negatives toward this. Problem is we don't take advantage of these situations. I'm glad the city is trying to move forward with these type projects. Great for kids and great for the economy.” -High School Head Coach*

*“This would be helpful for the state tournament because most games could be played at one site. It would also help bring bigger national, regional, and state competitions to Albuquerque. These tournaments bring money to the city in regards to motels rooms, food, gas etc.... and exposure for the city. Bottom line is: it can be a money maker if done correctly and promoted.” -High School Head Coach*

*“This is a great plan! Not only does it benefit youth and high school sports, it benefits the whole community. Having tournaments in the summer increases revenue for local businesses. Having lights as well increases the amount of play on the field. Also, I know from previous experience the mabl/Msbl teams that play on Sundays could use extra fields and they are willing to pay for it. That league could increase the games and play more on week nights during the summer and not have to rely on limited high school fields on Sundays. If you build it...They will Come.” - Coach*