February 11, 2008

Richard Colarco, CPRP – Director Hebron Parks & Recreation Department 15 Gilead Street Hebron, CT 06248

Rob Poudrier, Chairman Hebron Parks & Recreation Commission 15 Gilead Street Hebron, CT 06248

Dear Messrs, Colarco and Poudrier:

I am writing you to offer the assistance of US Lacrosse (<u>www.uslacrosse.org</u>) to provide any counsel required to secure your assistance in providing additional field space to address the growing interest in youth lacrosse throughout central Connecticut. US Lacrosse, a nonprofit organization, is the national governing body of lacrosse, and we provide a wide range of programs and services to support the sport's national growth and development.

It's my understanding that the Central Eastern Connecticut Athletic Association, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing youth sports opportunities to the families in and around your town, has approached you for assistance in identifying additional field space to address the growing demand for girls' and boys' youth lacrosse opportunities, as well as to support a developmental high school program. I also understand that you have expressed risk management concerns relating to the use of public fields for lacrosse and, specifically, the potential of spectators and other park users to be struck by a ball during lacrosse practices and games.

As you may know, lacrosse is the fastest growing sport in the country at the youth, high school and college levels. And, there are tens of thousands of children who play in youth leagues that use public park fields throughout the country. While there is obviously no way to completely eliminate the risk of injury, I can assure you lacrosse poses no greater risk of spectator injury than baseball, softball or any other sport or activity. Our insurance claims data indicates that, out of millions of exposures nationally, we have had only four spectator liability claims over the last seven years. Of course, any sports activity requires appropriate risk management by administrators and coaches to assure that the risk of injury to spectators is minimized, and US Lacrosse provides a comprehensive Risk Management Manual as an valuable resource in that effort. You can see the many risk management resources that US Lacrosse provides to the national lacrosse community here: http://www.bollingerlax.com/12.04.07NEW/index.asp

We also provide a comprehensive insurance program for more than 240,000 US Lacrosse member players, coaches and officials throughout the country, and every lacrosse player and coach within the Central Eastern Connecticut Athletic Association is required to be a member of US Lacrosse. I have enclosed information on our insurance program for your



review, and I believe you will find it is one of the most comprehensive offered in amateur sport. Please note that there is robust spectator liability coverage and, thankfully, it is rarely accessed.

Thank you so much for your efforts on behalf of the youngsters in your community. I know how challenging it can be to provide for ever-expanding interest when resources are limited. However, I hope you will let me know if US Lacrosse can provide any additional resources or counsel to enable you to feel more comfortable about your efforts to provide for the growing lacrosse community in your area. You can reach me at 410-235-6882, ext. 101.

Sincerely,

Steve Stenersen President & CEO

Cc:

Mark Logan Athletic Director Region 8 High School 85 Wall Street Hebron, CT 06248

Chris DiPasquale
President, CECAA, Inc.
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