

**J. B. JENNINGS**  
*Legislative District 7*  
Baltimore and Harford Counties

MINORITY LEADER

Finance Committee

Executive Nominations

Legislative Policy Committee



*The Senate of Maryland*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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May 22, 2020

Governor Larry Hogan  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Hogan,

I am writing on behalf of Bengies Drive-in Theatre, a staple landmark in my district that has been in business for over 60 years, to reopen effective immediately.

Bengies, located at 3417 Eastern Blvd. in Middle River, is the *only* theater in Maryland licensed to do business as an outdoor theater. Currently, all drive-in theaters are open in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Virginia, New Jersey and even New York; and it is believed that drive-in theaters are expected to see an unexpected boom throughout the country as social-distancing becomes the unfortunate new “norm.”

As you are well aware, Marylanders and their families are beginning to go “stir-crazy” and are in need of safe, family-friendly things to do. I strongly believe that opening the drive-in theater; a family-fun, no-contact, social-distancing activity, will not only help the mental health of Marylanders, but will also save a small business who is being negatively impacted by the current Executive Order of “theaters must remain closed.” For these reasons, amongst others, is why I am advocating on the behalf of the immediate re-opening of Bengies Drive-in Theatre.

Additionally, it is my understanding that the Baltimore County Executive’s Office has been advocating on behalf of Bengies to open as well, but unfortunately, Bengies cannot do so because of the current aforementioned Executive Order. The Board of Health in Baltimore County has also approved Bengies to open the outdoor restaurant portion of their drive-in as long as social-distancing guidelines are maintained.

I ask, what is a more social distancing activity than being in your own enclosed vehicle? Bengies has even offered to space vehicles to every-other space to further adhere to the social distancing guidelines.

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Governor, I ask you to please help save a Baltimore County landmark business and allow them to re-open effectively immediately. Please think not only about the survival of this small, family-owned business but of the mental health of Marylanders. Please allow families to partake in an activity that is not only safe, but fun. Please re-open the Drive-in!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J.B. Jennings". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right from the end of the name.

Senator J.B. Jennings

cc: Secretary Kelly Schulz  
County Executive Johnny Olszewski  
Matthew Clark  
Andrew Cassilly  
Keiffer Mitchell  
Cara Sullivan