



May 4, 2026

The Tampa Bay Chamber reaffirms our strong support for keeping the Tampa Bay Rays in the Tampa Bay region. As a cornerstone of our regional identity and economy, the Rays play a vital role in driving economic activity, community pride, and national visibility for our business community.

We are encouraged by the scale and potential impact of the proposed stadium project to serve as a catalyst for meaningful economic growth. The opportunity for job creation, expanded mixed-use development, and inclusion of education and workforce development components aligns with our vision for a thriving, competitive region.

According to data provided by the Tampa Bay Rays as part of their proposal, the project could generate as much as \$55–75 billion in total economic impact over 30 years, including approximately \$34 billion in direct impact from the ballpark and surrounding district. The proposal also points to the creation of nearly 40,000 construction jobs and roughly 11,900 permanent positions, along with thousands of ongoing jobs supported annually across the regional economy.

Beyond the numbers, the vision for a walkable, mixed-use district anchored by a new ballpark that incorporates retail, housing, education partnerships, and workforce development opportunities represents a transformative investment in the future of Tampa Bay. These elements align directly with the Chamber's priorities around talent development, economic competitiveness, and long-term regional growth.

At the same time, the Chamber believes it is essential to fully understand the financial and business terms associated with the proposal. As the voice of business for the Tampa Bay region, it is critical that the structure of the deal reflects a sound, transparent investment that delivers measurable return for the broader community.

It is equally important that any agreement is structured in a way that does not negatively impact the long-standing success and economic contributions of our existing professional sports teams, cultural, and entertainment assets, including the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Tampa Bay Lightning, and George M. Steinbrenner Field. These organizations and venues have played a critical role in shaping our regional economy, supporting jobs, tourism, and community investment for decades. In addition, the transportation infrastructure needs of the area around the stadium must be a part of the discussion as well as the neighborhood impact on the residents who are impacted every home game with traffic and parking issues.

The baseball and related development opportunity is a rare chance to not just do something new, but create a comprehensive, future focused development for residents and visitors. We remain optimistic and engaged, and we look forward to continued collaboration with all stakeholders to ensure a path forward that keeps the Rays in Tampa Bay while advancing a deal that benefits our entire community.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Rohrlack".

Bob Rohrlack, DBA, CCE  
President and CEO

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rob Ledford".

Rob Ledford  
Chairman