



November 9, 2025

Dear Friends and Baseball Fans of the Roanoke Valley,

We in Lynchburg have watched with great interest (and, frankly, a bit of confusion) as our neighbors in Salem bid farewell to a beloved institution. The Salem Red Sox, a fixture of Virginia baseball, are no more. Mugsy has been put out to pasture. And in their place? The *Ridge Yaks*.

Now, I'm not one to criticize our friends down I-81, but I do have questions. What exactly is a Ridge Yak? Where does one find these creatures in the valleys of Southwest Virginia? And most importantly, why would anyone retire a perfectly good dog for a... well, whatever *that* is?

This brings me to the purpose of this letter.

On behalf of the City of Lynchburg and our very real, very sensible 2025 Carolina League Champion Hillcats, I would like to extend a warm welcome to any Salem fans who find themselves in need of a new baseball home.

We're just 50 miles up the road, and we promise you the following:

- A mascot that makes geographical sense (we actually have hills)
- No sudden rebranding away from decades of tradition
- The same Single-A Carolina League baseball you've come to love
- Significantly fewer yaks

Our Hillcats have proudly represented Lynchburg for decades, carrying on a professional baseball tradition in our city that stretches back over a century. We understand the value of heritage, community, and not confusing your fan base with arbitrary name changes.

So to the loyal fans who painted their faces red, who taught their children to love Mugsy, and who now find themselves wondering what happened to their team, come see us at Bank of the James Stadium. We've got a hillcat-shaped hole in our stands that's exactly your size.

Besides, "hillcat" is just a mountain lion. You know, those animals that actually live in Virginia.

The road to Lynchburg is short. The welcome is genuine.

And I'm certain we're not changing our name to the Lynchburg Ledge Llamas anytime soon.

Play ball,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris".

Chris Faraldi, M.A.

Ward IV Representative, Lynchburg City Council

*P.S. - Mugsy, if you're reading this, you're welcome too.*

*Paid for & Authorized by Faraldi for Lynchburg*

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