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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

WEBSITE: <https://commerce.senate.gov>

April 17, 2025

Commissioner Roger Goodell
National Football League
345 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10154

Dear Commissioner Goodell:

On May 7, 2025, the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, which holds jurisdiction over sports, broadcasting, and telecommunications policy, will convene a hearing to examine the evolving landscape of sports programming. Given the central role of the National Football League (NFL) in American sports and media, I ask that you or a senior NFL executive with relevant expertise testify before the Committee.

The way Americans watch live sports, including the NFL, has changed dramatically in recent years. Traditional over-the-air broadcasts are increasingly supplemented—or even replaced—by digital platforms, subscription services, and exclusive streaming arrangements. Blackout policies can make it difficult for fans to watch out-of-market games. Many sporting events, once broadly available for free or through basic cable packages, are now distributed through subscription services and other fragmented models that have left some fans confused about where and how to watch their favorite teams. These shifts and existing, potentially outdated rules raise questions about accessibility, affordability, market competition, and the long-term implications for fan engagement.

The hearing will explore how sports leagues plan to serve fans in a rapidly changing media environment. Given the unique federal statutes that apply to the NFL's broadcasting rights, such as the Sports Broadcasting Act of 1961, the Committee is especially interested in understanding how the League balances commercial innovation and its legal responsibilities.

Senior representatives from the other major professional sports leagues will also be appearing at this hearing.

Mr. Roger Goodell

April 17, 2025

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Please submit your written testimony to the Committee no later than two business days prior to the hearing. While your full statement will be included in the hearing record, we ask that oral remarks be limited to five minutes to allow time for Member questions and discussion.

Enclosed with this letter are detailed instructions for Committee witnesses. If you have any questions, please contact the majority staff of the Committee at (202) 224-9361 or minority staff of the Committee at (202) 224-9081.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ted Cruz", is written over a horizontal line.

Ted Cruz
Chairman