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October 28, 2011

Mr. Roger Goodell
Commissioner
National Football League
280 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Mr. DeMaurice Smith
Executive Director
National Football League Players Association
1133 20th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Messrs. Goodell and Smith:

On October 14, 2011, we met to discuss plans for the implementation of a test for human growth hormone (HGH) in accordance with the terms of the collective bargaining agreement ratified this summer. We have been disappointed by the lack of movement on this important issue. Every week of football played without a test endangers clean players and sends a message to young athletes that HGH is tolerated at the game's highest level.

After a robust dialogue between representatives from the National Football League, the NFL Players Association (NFLPA), and the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA), it appeared that there was a consensus that the league and its players would take meaningful steps toward compliance with the language of the collective bargaining agreement.

We understand that last week, to help players better understand the HGH testing process, USADA offered a tour of its testing facility. There, the players and union representatives would be walked through every stage of the test. We understand the players declined this invitation. The decision not to accept this offer and other signals indicate a lack of urgency on the players' part to live up to the terms of the collective bargaining agreement they ratified this summer.

With so much at stake, we appreciate the due process concerns and the players' need to be reasonably confident that the HGH testing regime will not expose them to false positives. However, we believe that all parties to the collective bargaining agreement have an obligation to abide by its terms. The players agreed this summer to include an HGH test in the collective

bargaining agreement, and they agreed to the goal of beginning testing by the first week of the 2011 regular season.

At the end of our last meeting, the parties were put on notice that absent tangible signs of progress within two weeks, we would need to reconvene the parties. That deadline is near. Unfortunately, it appears that the players' union may be using stall tactics to avoid complying with the collective bargaining agreement. For example, we have not received an adequate justification for refusing to allow the collection of blood samples while negotiations continue about the testing regimen. We would be pleased to hear that the parties have taken steps toward resolution as we discussed during our last meeting, but absent such a development we will be in touch with you shortly.

Sincerely,

Darrell Issa
Chairman

Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member