



Carl Peterson
Chairman

Scott Hallenbeck
Executive Director

December 7, 2012

The Honorable Darrell E. Issa
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
2347 Rayburn H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
2235 Rayburn H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Issa and Ranking Member Cummings:

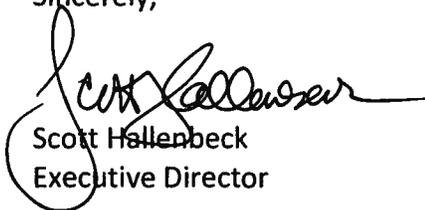
I applaud the Committee for holding a hearing on December 12th examining the science related to the test used to detect and deter the illicit use of human growth hormone (HGH). The upcoming hearing will provide an important forum to gather facts and testimony about keeping youth athletes away from this potentially dangerous performance enhancing drug.

USA Football is the sport's national governing body and the official youth football development partner of the National Football League (NFL), its 32 teams and the NFL Players Association. We are an independent, non-profit organization that leads the development of the game through educational programs and innovative resources.

Your inquiry calls necessary attention to the damaging and long-term health risks that performance enhancing drugs, such as HGH, can have on athletes, especially young ones. As you well know, HGH use can lead to numerous unhealthy outcomes, including diabetes, thyroid problems, harm to reproductive health, muscle and joint disorders, and even cancer. Users also face the risk of contaminated or fake product, as well as risks associated with injections and needle use.

The NFL's adoption of HGH testing will set the right example for youth athletes. Millions of fans – especially young people – will know that there are no short cuts to the game's highest level and that doping is a dangerous detour from it.

Sincerely,



Scott Hallenbeck
Executive Director