



NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

June 18, 2008

Dear Members of the Committee on Financial Services:

Last year, at the invitation of Representative Ed Towns, I addressed the Congressional Black Caucus about problems of sports betting on the Internet. I explained that all the professional leagues and the NCAA have strict rules against sports betting, in order to protect the integrity of American athletics. These policies harmonize with numerous federal and state laws, because Congress and many legislatures have recognized the damage gambling does to all sports.

I spoke to the CBC to support implementation of the Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006. That law seriously impeded sports betting on the Internet. Before UIGEA's enactment, offshore gambling operators were vigorously promoting sports books, notwithstanding American law. Without UIGEA, this corrosive activity would have continued to expand. By passing UIGEA, Congress sent a strong signal that it was unwilling to tolerate sports betting and other gambling on the Internet.

I am therefore gravely concerned that the Committee on Financial Services may act on legislation that would interdict prompt implementation of UIGEA regulations. If Congress delivers a message that UIGEA is not to be implemented, problems with Internet sports betting will return. Laws against sports betting will again be eroded.

As a former professional and collegiate football player, and mindful particularly of the pressures that sports betting brings on young minority athletes, I urge you not to pursue such legislation.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gene Washington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gene A. Washington
Director of Football Operations