



March 21, 2024

Mr. Roger Goodell
Commissioner
National Football League
345 Park Avenue, Seventh Floor
New York, NY 10154

Dear Commissioner Goodell,

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, the Commonwealth's largest broad-based business advocacy organization representing nearly 10,000 organizations and half of the state's private sector workforce, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the City of Pittsburgh's bid to host the NFL Draft. Pittsburgh's rich football history, innovative story, accessible public infrastructure, and passionate fan base make it an ideal location for this event.

Western Pennsylvania holds a special place in the hearts of football fans around the world. From the earliest days of the NFL to the present, this region has long been a cradle of talent and a bastion of football excellence.

Pittsburgh has nurtured and celebrated its proud football heritage, producing iconic figures whose names are synonymous with greatness and those who played professionally here: Montana, Marino, Unitas, Namath, Ditka, Swann, Bradshaw, Bettis, Polamalu, Revis, and Donald, to name a few. Their legacies, forged here, continue to inspire and shape the future of the game. The Steel City is an ideal location to host an event where these players will begin their own journeys and create legacies like those countless Pittsburgh legends who came before them.

Pittsburgh is also a living testament to Pennsylvania's enduring spirit of innovation and resilience that embodies our state's unwavering commitment to progress. From the steel that fueled the Industrial Revolution to the rockets now being launched to the moon, Pittsburgh perfectly represents our indomitable will to do great things. Success in business, like success on the gridiron, requires grit, resolve, and the willingness to work together – qualities embedded in the people of western Pennsylvania.

Moreover, the city's well-developed public infrastructure, including its world-class convention facilities, hotels, and transportation network, will ensure a seamless and efficient environment for hosting the NFL Draft. Pittsburgh's central location within the northeastern United States also makes it an easily accessible destination for teams, league officials, media personnel, and fans traveling from across the country.

Hosting the NFL Draft in Pittsburgh presents a unique opportunity to further engage with young people and inspire the next generation of athletes. By showcasing this event in a city with such a deep-rooted football tradition, we can ignite passion and excitement among young fans, encouraging them to pursue active lifestyles and participate in the many youth sports programs offered locally. This aligns perfectly with the NFL's commitment to promoting physical activity and fostering a culture of active health and wellness among children and adolescents.

In conclusion, we ask that you strongly consider Pittsburgh's bid to host the NFL Draft. Beyond celebrating its unparalleled football legacy, hosting the NFL Draft in Pittsburgh would help create a lasting impression for future generations of fans and aspiring athletes. The event would also be a catalyst for economic activity, leading to job creation, business growth, and greater investment – all of which will help to create an enduring positive impact on the region and its residents.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to the opportunity to welcome you and the NFL community to the Steel City and stand ready to work with you to ensure the event is a success.

Sincerely,

Luke Bernstein
President & CEO
PA Chamber