

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 28, 2020

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman
House Committee on Energy & Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Greg Walden
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy & Commerce
2322 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member Walden:

I am writing to urge the Committee to expeditiously advance H.R. 5373, bipartisan legislation of mine reauthorizing the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA).

I am grateful to the Committee for considering H.R. 5373 at its legislative hearing on July 29, and appreciate the work you and your staff have done to ensure that USADA can continue its essential work through 2021 and beyond.

As you know, USADA is recognized by Congress as the official anti-doping agency for Olympic, Paralympic, and other sporting competitions in the United States. Among other key duties, USADA is responsible for testing athletes, managing the results of those tests, and pursuing bad actors who seek to undermine the principles of clean and fair sport through the use of illicit or banned substances. USADA also conducts educational initiatives, including for young athletes, and organizes scientific studies into the use, effect and detection of steroids, hormones, and other substances commonly used by competitors to gain an advantage.

Current funding for USADA expires this year. My legislation, authored with Representatives Johnson (R-OH) and DeGette (D-CO), would reauthorize USADA through Fiscal Year 2027. The bill also provides a slight funding boost beginning in 2026, to allow USADA to prepare for the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles.

In addition, this legislation would require USADA to devote a portion of its funding to clean sport initiatives for young athletes, and authorizes the Department of Justice and other federal agencies to cooperate with USADA in the course of its investigations.

As recent doping scandals have shown – particularly in the world of cycling – the abuse of performance enhancing drugs often begins at a young age. Many young athletes, especially those with promising careers, face enormous pressure to gain any competitive edge available to them – including pressure from coaches, trainers, parents and other adults. It is critical that these young

competitors have the education and resources they need to surmount that pressure, stay clean, and stay healthy, and it is similarly critical that USADA work in concert with federal agencies to identify and penalize bad actors.

I thank the Committee for considering H.R. 5373 at its hearing, and urge you to report the bill expeditiously to the Floor of the House.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Thompson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "Thompson" clearly distinguishable.

MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress