

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 22, 2007

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

Dear Commissioner Goodell:

We write to express our concern that many New Hampshire residents may not be able to see the final NFL regular season game of the year between the New England Patriots and the New York Giants on December 29, 2007. This game between two storied franchises could have serious playoff implications. Due to the current policies for games broadcasted on the league's new television channel, The NFL Network, fans in the Boston area and the New York City metropolitan area will be able to see the game on free, broadcast television, but many Granite Staters will not.

In November 2006, when the NFL testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee, the league touted its policy of offering free broadcasting of NFL games. Since Congress passed the Sports Broadcasting Act precisely for that purpose, watching NFL games has become a weekly ritual for millions of Americans each fall.

When the NFL testified last year, they explained that even games televised on pay television "are televised on free broadcast television in the home cities of the competing teams." However, the manner by which the NFL is applying the definition of "home cities," does not take into account that there are hundreds of thousands of New Hampshire residents who cheer for the Patriots as their home team. While many in New Hampshire will receive the broadcast in the Boston/Manchester market area, our residents in the northern and western counties will not be able to watch their team finish one of the best regular seasons in NFL history.

New Hampshire Patriots fans are extremely loyal and we know that they are important to the team and to the NFL. As this momentous season comes to an end, we urge the NFL not to forget Patriots fans in the great state of New Hampshire. We would be grateful if you would take whatever steps may be necessary to ensure that every Patriots fan in New Hampshire has the opportunity to watch this potentially historic game.

Sincerely,



Paul Hodes
Member of Congress



Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress