Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 6, 2026

Cathy Engelbert
Commissioner
Women's National Basketball Association
645 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Dear Commissioner Engelbert:

We write to follow up on our September 2025 letter regarding the ongoing collective bargaining negotiations between the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA) and the Women's National Basketball Players Association (WNBPA).[1] We request an update from the league on the status of negotiations since we have not yet received a response to our correspondence. With the unilaterally set March 10 deadline rapidly approaching[2] and little movement on key components of the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) such as revenue sharing,[3] we are deeply concerned about the status of negotiations and the potential consequences if an agreement is not reached in time for the upcoming season. Given that it is the policy of the United States to facilitate collective bargaining under the *National Labor Relations Act* (NLRA), we again urge the league to engage in good-faith negotiations to reach a fair collective bargaining agreement (CBA) in a timely manner.

We, as members of the Democratic Women's Caucus and House Democratic Caucus, have a strong interest in the continued growth and long-term success of women's sports, the fair treatment of women athletes, and the economic impact of the WNBA in many of our Members' communities. The WNBA's recent expansion, record viewership, and rising fan engagement underscore the league's growing influence. Maintaining this momentum is important for the continued advancement of women's sports.

Furthermore, we are deeply concerned that uncertainty surrounding negotiations so close to the start of the season could create instability for players, fans, and communities that host WNBA teams. Games and related events support local economies by providing jobs for arena and hospitality staff and increasing tourism and patronage of small businesses in host cities.[4] Any disruption to the season could have ripple effects for these workers and businesses, particularly

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[1] Democratic Women's Caucus. (2025, September 10). *Democratic Women's Caucus demands WNBA bargain in good faith with players union; demands fair pay for women.* https://democraticwomenscaucus.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=411
[2] S. Merchant (2026, February 26). *WNBA says 2026 season will be impacted if no deal on a CBA by March 10*. The Athletic. https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/7066988/2026/02/23/wnba-march-deadline-cba-term-sheet-schedule/
[3] Silverman, B. (2026, February 21). *WNBA doesn't budge on salary in latest CBA proposal, here's why that's significant*. Sports Illustrated. https://www.si.com/wnba/wnba-doesnt-budge-on-salary-latest-cba-proposal
[4] WCNC. (2025, May 27). *Caitlin Clark's star power drives WNBA revenue spike.* WCNC. https://www.wcnc.com/article/news/local/connect-the-dots/caitlin-clarks-effect-wnba-surging-ticket-prices-attendance/275-979e50b7-760d-44d5-b69a-53f837d52714

at a time when many families are already facing economic pressures.

We are also aware of recent reports suggesting that the league may be trying to divide players during these negotiations.[5] If accurate, such actions could raise concerns under the NLRA, which protects workers' rights to organize and engage in collective bargaining free from employer interference.

Given the approaching deadline and the lack of response to our previous correspondence, we request a prompt update on the status of negotiations and the league's efforts to reach an agreement before the season begins. We will continue to monitor this situation closely and expect that these negotiations proceed in a manner consistent with federal labor law and the betterment of women's sports.

Sincerely,

Teresa Leger Fernández
Chair
Democratic Women's Caucus

Angie Craig
Member of Congress

Greg Stanton
Member of Congress

Lori Trahan
Member of Congress

Julie Johnson
Equality Caucus Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus

Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Co-Chair
Policy Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus

[5] Friend, T. (2026, March 4). *WNBPA issues statement of solidarity, rejects latest league proposal*. Sports Business Journal. https://www.sportsbusinessjournal.com/Articles/2026/03/04/wnbpa-issues-statement-of-solidarity-rejects-latest-league-proposal/