



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY
Washington, D.C. 20503

June 13, 2026

TO: All WADA Stakeholders

Re: Open Letter to WADA Stakeholders Regarding Report of the Working Group on the Operational Independence of National Anti-Doping Organizations

Dear Public Authorities, Athletes, and WADA Stakeholders:

Earlier I wrote to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) President and Public Authorities to express my grave concerns regarding WADA's unjustifiable exclusion of the United States, the duly elected WADA Executive Committee (ExCo) representative of the Americas Region, from the upcoming Extraordinary Meeting of the ExCo. WADA's exclusion of the United States from the upcoming ExCo violates the letter and spirit of the UNESCO International Convention Against Doping in Sport, signed by 192 of the world's governments. WADA's exclusion of the United States from the ExCo disappointingly thwarts important collaboration and cooperation on issues that touch on preparation for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic and Paralympic Games.

In this Open Letter I am writing to all WADA Stakeholders to address a report of the Working Group on the Operational Independence of National Anti-Doping Organizations (the "WGOI Report") that I understand will be relied upon as a basis to weaken the role and effectiveness of operationally independent national anti-doping organizations (NADOs), which includes, the U.S. NADO, USADA.¹ The United States considers it vital to the wellbeing of clean athletes to respond promptly and firmly to reject any use of the WGOI Report as a spring board to substantially alter the World Anti-Doping Program to diminish the role of operationally independent NADOs, which would thereby render the World Anti-Doping Program less accountable and transparent than it is today. The robust and vigorous participation of NADOs in the anti-doping ecosystem is of particular importance to the United States as we strive to ensure the cleanest Olympic and Paralympic Games ever.

If implemented, certain recommendations understood to be contained in the WGOI Report and supported by WADA Management would diminish the effectiveness of operationally independent NADOs, undercut confidence in the integrity of Games and pre-Olympic/Paralympic Games testing and thereby undermine the trustworthiness of the performances of competitors in the Olympic and Paralympic Games themselves, destroy important safeguards and checks and balances in the global anti-doping system and increase costs of testing to national governments, without a corresponding enhancement in the effectiveness of that testing. All of this is contrary to the interests of all WADA stakeholders in ensuring an effective and credible global anti-doping system and is of particular

¹ Given that WADA Management has chosen not to copy the United States into official communications related to the upcoming ExCo meeting, and because WADA does not transparently share ExCo meeting materials with all public authorities, this letter does not address all potential meeting topics and the United States reserves the right to later address other topics that may be raised in the upcoming ExCo meeting.

interest to the United States government as the host of the upcoming 2028 Los Angeles Olympic and Paralympic Games.

For more than ten years and across multiple doping scandals it has been operationally independent NADOs and Governments that have shown a light on WADA's deficiencies and called for reform. Indeed, the genesis of the WGOI Report traces to Eric Cottier, the Swiss lawyer hired by WADA after NADOs complained in order to evaluate aspects of WADA's conduct in relation to 23 Chinese swimmers who had collectively returned 28 samples that tested positive for the powerful prohibited performance enhancer Trimetazidine in January 2021.

Thus, it is predictable but still deeply ironic that WADA Management's own conclusion arising from its failure to ensure that its own procedures were followed in the Russian and Chinese situations is to reduce the oversight role of *NADOs* and impose costly burdens upon them. WADA Management's recommendations are obviously wrong. The overall impact of WADA's recommendations would diminish transparency, independence, and checks and balances to the detriment of the global anti-doping system and would undermine confidence in that system for Athletes and Governments.

The most glaring deficiency in the materials is the lack of substantial evidence or cogent analysis upon which these demands are based. Justification for the proposed changes is premised upon a supposed "athlete perception," which has not, by any means, been robustly established. Indeed, we are aware that U.S. athletes have high confidence in USADA and would be troubled to learn of WADA's proposals.

Yet, even if some athletes believe NADOs might be inclined to favor athletes from their own country, this would not by itself justify limiting operationally independent NADOs, particularly given the important role they play in offsetting even stronger conflict of interest concerns related to testing by international sports federations and the non-Code signatory private organizations that sports hire to perform testing for them.

The solution to WADA's past failures is not to tie the hands of operationally independent NADOs and burden them and their governments with unfunded WADA mandates. As the United States has consistently maintained, the best way for WADA to restore trust would be to submit to an operational audit of WADA by independent experts and auditors.

Although the United States will not be at the upcoming Extraordinary WADA ExCo meeting because WADA is denying the Americas Region their rightful seat at the table, I hope that all ExCo members and all WADA stakeholders will consider these comments and resist WADA's efforts to undermine the effectiveness and transparency of the World Anti-Doping Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sara Carter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sara Carter
Director