

REGINALD BOLDING
DEMOCRATIC LEADER
1700 WEST WASHINGTON, SUITE H
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007-2844
CAPITOL PHONE: (602)926-3132
TOLL FREE: 1-800-352-8404
rbolding@azleg.gov



Joint Committee on
Capital Review
Legislative Council

DISTRICT 27

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 11, 2021

Commissioner Roger Goodell
National Football League
345 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10154

Dear Commissioner Goodell,

The National Football League was on the right side of history 30 years ago when it pulled the 1993 Super Bowl from Arizona after our legislature failed to recognize the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Today, the Arizona Senate passed very concerning voter-suppression legislation Senate Bill 1485 -- as well as other anti-democracy bills still moving through process -- and the pundits are asking, "Will the NFL pull the Super Bowl from Arizona again?"

I strongly oppose this legislation, yet I hope this is a question that never needs to be answered. I am respectfully requesting that you add your powerful voice to a chorus of folks from a broad political spectrum to urge Governor Doug Ducey to veto this reprehensible legislation.

As background, I currently serve as the Democratic Leader in the Arizona House of Representatives and am the co-founder of the Arizona non-profit Our Voice Our Vote, the largest Black-led voting rights and community engagement organization in the state. I have dedicated my career to ensuring every eligible voter has safe, equal access to a secure ballot.

This bill is reprehensible and stands in direct opposition to my, and the NFL's commitment to the fundamental right to vote. If signed by Governor Doug Ducey, it will purge more than 100,000 eligible voters from Arizona's Permanent Early Voting List. Voters of color, independent voters, seniors and working-poor voters will be disproportionately impacted.

Heartbreakingly, these are the same folks who will be disproportionately impacted by the potential cancellation of Arizona's 2023 Super Bowl.

With immense respect, it is time for organizations like the NFL, the NCAA and the College Football National Championship to get off the sidelines and take a stand like Major League Baseball. How can franchises whose teams are overwhelmingly made up by people of color remain silent while states like Arizona push forward policies that will take us back in time to an era before Civil Rights? We believe your voice will make a difference.

Recently, Mr. Michael Bidwill recognized this looming injustice and was among the Arizona business leaders who signed a letter that read, "These measures seek to disenfranchise voters. They are 'solutions' in search of a problem. They are attempts at voter suppression cloaked as

reform - plain and simple.” I wholeheartedly agree. And I echo Mr. Arthur Blank’s recent statement that read in part, “We should be making voting easier, not harder.”

Our gratitude to Mr. Bidwill is immense, but he is only one owner of many. We hope you will support our effort to protect voting rights in Arizona and wherever they may be threatened. Please ask Gov. Ducey to veto SB1485.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Reginald Bolding J." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and a trailing 'J.' at the end.

Reginald Bolding
Arizona House of Representatives, Minority Leader
Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director Our Voice, Our Vote – Arizona
Proud Member of the Arizona Cardinals’ Red Sea