Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

John D. Swofford
Commissioner
Atlantic Coast Conference
4512 Weybridge Lane
Greensboro, NC 27407

David B. Frohnmayer
Office of the President
1226 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1226

March 31, 2009

Dear Commissioner Swofford and Chairman Frohnmayer:

We are writing to express our concerns regarding the college football Bowl Championship Series (BCS) and its effort to crown a "national champion". The current BCS system is flawed with respect to access to BCS bowl games, the continued denial of a fair opportunity for teams to compete for the national championship, and the manner in which significant broadcasting revenue is distributed. A bipartisan group of public officials have raised questions about the BCS, including President Obama.

As you know, the Bowl Championship Series was instituted in 1998 and relies on averages between two human polls, and six computer programs run by individuals to determine which two teams should play for its championship. The problem with this system is that it disproportionately favors traditionally large football programs and continually fails to determine who is without a doubt, the best team in college football. Additionally, there are six conferences that automatically receive pay-outs of more than $17 million dollars because they are guaranteed a place in one of the five BCS bowls. Smaller conferences are forced to lobby voters in an effort to convince them that they deserve a place at the table.

The BCS impacts more than just college football programs. Universities that compete in BCS bowl games and have an opportunity to compete for the national championship garner increased visibility for their institutions. A new system will also significantly raise the revenue received by all participating universities. These additional revenues can provide support for athletic programs, support for academic programs, and scholarships for students whose families have limited means.

Congressional concern regarding the inequities of the BCS system and its negative effects on colleges across the nation is growing. We urge you to consider a new, more equitable approach to determining a national champion that gives each Football Bowl Subdivision member an equal opportunity to compete for the championship. We believe such a system is consistent with the goals of collegiate athletics and in the best interest of our nation's youth.

Sincerely,

GARY G. MILLER
Member of Congress

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Member of Congress

JOE BARTON
Member of Congress

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KEN CALVERT
Member of Congress

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