

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 29, 2013

Dr. Jacques Rogge  
President  
International Olympic Committee  
Château de Vidy  
Case Postale 356  
1001 Lausanne  
Switzerland

Dear President Rogge:

We write regarding the upcoming vote by the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Executive Board to select which sport to recommend to the 125<sup>th</sup> IOC session for inclusion as an additional sport in the 2020 Olympic Games. We strongly urge you to reconsider the decision made in February to remove wrestling from the Summer Olympic program and recommend the reinstatement of wrestling as a core sport of the Olympic Games.

The history of wrestling is the history of the Olympics itself. One of the oldest competitive sports in the world, wrestling was included as one of the original sports in the ancient Greek Olympic Games. It also appeared in the first modern Games in 1896, beginning a long and storied Olympic history. To eliminate wrestling from the Olympics would be to abandon the very traditions the Games are built upon.

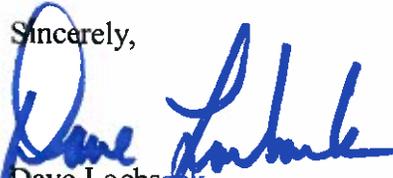
The sport of wrestling knows no boundaries. It does not discriminate based on race, gender or nationality. Found in almost 200 countries, wrestling is a truly global sport, bringing people together from every corner of the world. As part of the Olympics, it has shown itself to be the true embodiment of the Olympic spirit by bridging gaps not only between individuals, but between nations.

At its core, wrestling embodies qualities that define the Olympics: hard work, discipline, and perseverance. As Dan Gable, an Olympic gold medalist and former US Olympic wrestling coach, said, "Once you've wrestled, everything else in life is easy." People around the globe have embraced wrestling because it represents the determination it takes to succeed not only in sport, but in life.

The sport of wrestling and the athletes that represent it are a true testament to the Olympic spirit. A decision to eliminate it from the Summer Games would be a loss for the American people, the Olympic family and the entire world community. We strongly urge you to reconsider your

earlier decision and honor the values and traditions of the Olympic Games by recommending wrestling for inclusion in Summer Olympic program.

Sincerely,



Dave Loebsack  
Member of Congress



Jim Jordan  
Member of Congress



Tim Walz  
Member of Congress