

Sunil K. Gulati, President
U.S. Soccer Federation
1801 S. Prairie Avenue
Chicago, IL 60616



November 8, 2017

Dear Mr. Gulati,

I am writing about the U.S. Soccer Federation's ("USSF") recent decision to deny the North American Soccer League ("NASL") professional sanctioning at the Division 2 level for the 2018 season. I urge you to reconsider this decision.

Our nonprofit, the Alliance for Coney Island, seeks to continue the revitalization of Coney Island and improve quality of life. We believe that Coney Island, as a neighborhood and destination can only benefit from the New York Cosmos being a team here and are a critical component to Coney Island becoming a year-round destination.

The New York Cosmos have built a loyal following in the New York metropolitan area. This is to the benefit of the city and to American soccer in general. The team has been a welcome addition to the Coney Island neighborhood, attracting tens of thousands of visitors and extending the tourist season well beyond the traditional summer months. The Cosmos organization has created numerous jobs in New York State for players, coaches, front office personnel, and stadium workers, among others. Area restaurants, bars, hotels, and amusement parks have all benefited from the increased foot traffic brought in from visiting Cosmos fans.

The Cosmos participation in a Division 2 level league is vital for maintaining this sporting and economic success in New York. I urge you to maintain the Cosmos and NASL Division 2 status so they can remain as an asset to New York.

Sincerely yours,

Alexandra Silversmith
Executive Director