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November 9, 2017

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

Dear Mr. Gulati:

I'm writing you regarding U.S. Soccer Federation's (USSF) decision to deny the North American Soccer League (NASL) professional sanctioning at the Division 2 level for the 2018 season. I respectfully ask that you reconsider this decision.

The New York Cosmos are an important part of New York's and America's soccer history and have built a loyal following in the New York metropolitan area. They have been a benefit to the city and to American soccer in general. The team has been a welcome addition to the Brooklyn's 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.

The club's rich history has contributed to a vibrant atmosphere with thousands of fans cheering on the Cosmos every game, and those fans deserve to keep their team. With the decision to downgrade the NASL Division 2, not only will the league and teams suffer, but more importantly the fans, who have embraced this team and the sport of soccer, will suffer. New Yorkers and fans from far and wide are invested in the fate of the Cosmos. I urge you to allow this landmark team to continue its legacy and maintain the NASL Division 2 status.

Sincerely,


HON. PAUL A. VALLONE