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**Committee on House Administration**  
*Ranking Member*

**Committee on Appropriations**  
*Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,  
Science, and Related Agencies*  
*Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development, and Related Agencies*

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

February 12, 2024

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

Amy Reisenbach  
President  
CBS Entertainment  
524 W 57<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10019

Dear Mr. Goodell & Ms. Reisenbach,

I write to you today to express my extreme disappointment in the NFL and CBS's decision to not televise any of the three American Sign Language (ASL) performers during the 2024 Super Bowl pre-game show. Televising sign language performances is not just about entertainment—it's about promoting equality, diversity, and understanding.

This year's performance of the National Anthem was signed by Daniel Durant, widely known for his performance in the Academy Award winning film CODA and a graduate of Rochester Institute of Technology's National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID). NTID is the first and largest technological college in the world for those who are deaf or hard of hearing and located in my district in Rochester, NY. All of us here in Rochester were excited to watch and support Daniel, and millions more around the world who are deaf or hard of hearing were looking forward to being included in the pre-game events. Because the NFL & CBS made the decision to not show the ASL performances on television, millions of people were excluded instead.

According to Axios, Anna Isaacson, the NFL's Senior VP of Social Responsibility said that ASL performances "have become an integral part of the Super Bowl, and we look forward to continuing to showcase diverse representation during this highly visible moment and throughout every aspect of the league." If Sunday's Super Bowl was a showcase of the NFL's commitment to diversity, then you have a lot of work to do. Briefly introducing sign language interpreters and then not showing them for the duration of the performance shows that the NFL & CBS are more interested in appearing to do the right thing than actually doing the right thing.

The Super Bowl reaches millions of people every year. By televising ASL performances, we can raise awareness about deaf culture and the importance of accessibility for all individuals. I urge you to consider the importance of this issue going forward and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph D. Morelle".

Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress