

United States Senate

April 27th, 2023

Mr. Ross Young
CEO, USA Rugby
501 S Cherry Street, Unit 100
Glendale, CO 80246

Dear Mr. Young,

Indiana has a forty-year history of driving community and economic development through sport. As a result, our state capital Indianapolis is home to national sport governing bodies like the NCAA and USA Track and Field. The state has hosted some of the largest national and international events including the Super Bowl, the PanAm Games, and multiple NCAA finals. In 2023, Indiana will once again host the Big Ten Championship Football Game, and in 2024 the NBA All-Star Game and U.S. Olympic Swimming Trials.

Within our state is an active and successful rugby community. Over 1,300 boys and girls play middle school and high school rugby. The North Central High School women's rugby team has won 11 state-championships since 2000. The Royal Irish Rugby Club comprised of students from multiple high schools, has won four national high school boys' championships and produced USA 15's Men's Captain, Bryce Campbell, and USA 7's Men's player and Olympian Joe Schroeder. The vibrant Indiana rugby community has many additional high school national contenders in Mishawaka, Fort Wayne and Pendleton and USA national women's team members who grew up in Carmel.

At the collegiate level in 2019, Marian University, located in Indianapolis established rugby as a varsity sport and currently has 27 scholarship athletes. This compliments rugby at the collegiate club level with perennial BIG10 conference powerhouses, Indiana University, Notre Dame University and Purdue University competing in 15's and 7's.

Professional international rugby will find eager fans, great venues, and a community ready to support its success. Hoosiers would be excited to welcome you to Indianapolis. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Mike Braun
United States Senator