



NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

ROGER GOODELL
Commissioner

January 31, 2008

Hon. Arlen Specter
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Specter:

I saw today for the first time your letters inquiring about my investigation into the taping of defensive signals by the New England Patriots. I apologize for not having replied earlier. (I have instructed my staff to contact your office to make sure that you have my best phone and fax numbers for our future communications.)

With respect to the Patriots matter, senior members of my staff conducted detailed, individual interviews with Patriots' owner Robert Kraft, Coach Belichick, and other Patriots employees promptly after this matter came to our attention. They reviewed the videotapes and notes made by the Patriots employee who reviewed the tapes on behalf of the club. Following that review, the tapes and the notes were destroyed by our office in order to ensure that they could not be used for any purpose going forward. Our goal was to ensure that the Patriots would not secure any possible competitive advantage as a result of the misconduct that had been identified. The Patriots have separately certified to me in writing that we received all tapes, all notes, and that no other material exists relating to the taping of defensive signals.

Our investigation specifically disclosed nothing relating to the stealing of Eagles' signals during the Super Bowl game between the Patriots and the Philadelphia Eagles in 2005. (The two teams had only played one other game against each other in the current decade, a preseason game in the summer of 2003.) We have no reason to believe that the outcome of the 2005 Super Bowl was affected in any way by the improper taping of Eagles' defensive signals.

The discipline I imposed on both the Patriots and Coach Belichick was very substantial. No coach has ever been fined as much as Coach Belichick, and no club has been required to forfeit its first round selection in the college draft for such an on-field violation. I am confident that neither the Patriots, nor any other NFL team, will engage in this type of conduct again.

Hon. Arlen Specter
January 31, 2008
Page two

I believe that I have no more significant responsibility than protecting the integrity of the game and promoting public confidence in the NFL, and that our actions in response to the Patriots' taping was entirely consistent with that responsibility.

Again, I regret not having seen and responded to your questions sooner. As always, I appreciate your interest in the NFL.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Goodell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Roger" and last name "Goodell" clearly distinguishable.

ROGER GOODELL