

DEAR SENATOR MCCAIN AND REPRESENTATIVE BLILEY:

We, the leadership of the National Association of Attorneys General ("NAAG") Boxing Task Force, and Attorneys General interested in industry reform, strongly endorse the Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act (S. 305) and fully support your efforts to improve the professional boxing industry. We believe this legislation will curb anti-competitive and fraudulent business practices and prevent blatant exploitation of professional boxers.

We are encouraged by the support S. 305 has received in the Senate, and we look forward to working with you to protect the health and safety of professional boxers and to prevent exploitation, fraud, and restraints of trade. The Muhammad Ali Act provides a practical approach to long-standing problems of fraud and restraints of trade in this industry.

The Boxing Task Force, currently comprised of 19 Attorneys General, was formally established in March 1998 after legislation was passed by both the House and Senate Commerce Committees and then subsequently by both the House and Senate. (The Professional Boxing Safety Act 15 U.S.C. §6301, et seq.). After Federal Trade Commission Chairman Robert Pitofsky's suggested that state Attorneys General review business practices in the professional boxing industry, the National Association of Attorneys General created the Boxing Task Force to examine interstate boxing practices in the United States, identify the problems therein, and recommend ways to improve the industry.

In furtherance of our common objectives, the Task Force conducted a public hearing on January 19-21, 1999, where testimony, including numerous recommendations, was received from individuals representing a cross-section of the boxing industry. Testimony was elicited from boxing promoters on their role in the industry and on the issue of long term and exclusive contractual options. Sanctioning organizations testified about the methods utilized to rank fighters. Various experts on boxers' injuries discussed the necessity for medical clearance and the use of proper equipment and ringside safety precautions. Industry members and business leaders discussed a structured annuity and pension plan for professional boxers.

We are in the process of reviewing the testimony, and after further consultation with members of the industry, we will compile a report with our recommendations. We seek to reform certain practices within the industry, to return integrity to boxing on behalf of the athletes and the ticket-buying public, and to otherwise enhance the well-being of boxing and all associated with it.

Finally, we would like to emphasize the importance of the proposed enforcement guidelines of the Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act, which would permit a State, as *parens patriae*, to bring a civil action on behalf of its residents in an appropriate district court of the United States for violations of the Boxing Reform Act. We believe that the authority to enjoin the holding of a professional boxing match, and to enforce compliance

with the Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act, is necessary to ensure lawful and responsible boxing industry compliance with national reforms.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. We hope you will favorably consider the Muhammad Ali Act. We stand ready to assist you as the bill advances, so please feel free to call on us.

Sincerely yours,

Eliot Spitzer, Attorney General of New York, Chair, NAAG Boxing Task Force; Jim Ryan, Attorney General of Illinois, Vice Chair, NAAG Boxing Task Force; Janet Napolitano, Attorney General of Arizona; Richard Blumenthal, Attorney General of Connecticut; Bill Lockyer, Attorney General of California; Robert A. Butterworth, Attorney General of Florida; Jeffrey A. Modisett, Attorney General of Indiana; Tom Miller, Attorney General of Iowa; Richard P. Ieyoub, Attorney General of Louisiana; J. Joseph Curran, Jr., Attorney General of Maryland; Mike Moore, Attorney General of Mississippi; Jeremiah W. "Jay" Nixon, Attorney General of Missouri; Frankie Sue Del Papa, Attorney General of Nevada; Peter Verniero, Attorney General of New Jersey; W.A. Drew Edmondson, Attorney General of Oklahoma; Hardy Myers, Attorney General of Oregon; Mike Fisher, Attorney General of Pennsylvania; José A. Fuentes-Agostini, Attorney General of Puerto Rico; Mark L. Earley, Attorney General of Virginia.