



National Basketball Association

Mark Tatum
Deputy Commissioner &
Chief Operating Officer

December 13, 2021

Via Email

The Honorable Rick Scott
United States Senate
502 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Response to December 6 Letter

Dear Senator Scott:

I write in response to your December 6, 2021 letter to Commissioner Adam Silver.

Like many other U.S.-based multi-national companies, the NBA operates in many countries – including China – that have different political systems and cultural norms than the United States. In China as in many other international markets, we are engaged in the business of exporting American basketball and the culture that comes with it. In this and all of our other ventures, our core values of equality, respect, and freedom of expression have long defined the NBA and will continue to do so. And as a matter of policy, the NBA does not regulate what players, team investors, and league and team personnel can or cannot say on the topic of China or any other geopolitical issue.

The NBA condemns human rights violations anywhere. We are mindful of the circumstances in the countries where we operate, and our mission is the same across the globe: to inspire and connect people everywhere through basketball. We continue to believe that using basketball to engage and bring people together around the world – including in China – is an important and valuable undertaking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark L. Tatum".

Mark Tatum