



## GOVERNOR JOSH SHAPIRO

February 13, 2024

Mr. Roger Goodell  
Commissioner  
National Football League  
345 Park Avenue, Seventh Floor  
New York, NY 10154

Dear Commissioner Goodell:

I am pleased to submit this letter in support of the City of Pittsburgh's bid to host the NFL Draft. As a huge football fan and the Governor of Pennsylvania, I am proud that Western Pennsylvania played a significant role in the birth of professional football. I know that Pittsburgh and the Commonwealth will more than exceed your expectations as the finest host city and state for one of the premier sports events in America. While we welcome the opportunity to host the 2026 or 2027 NFL Draft, our Commonwealth will serve as a hub of national and international activity over the next several years as we celebrate America's 250th birthday in 2026. As the birthplace of democracy, we would be honored for the 2026 NFL Draft to be a centerpiece of those semiquincentennial activities.

The story of Pittsburgh is one of transformation and renewal. As American steel and manufacturing has evolved, Pittsburgh has reinvented itself and invested in bringing high-tech jobs to the city with a commitment to becoming environmentally friendly. Today, Pittsburgh has established itself as one of the most dynamic cities and regions on the East Coast. Pittsburgh excels in a multitude of sectors, has received numerous international accolades for its cultural district, well-known attractions and museums, and outdoor activities, and is routinely ranked as one of the safest and most walkable cities in America.

Pittsburghers take exceptional pride in being a true American sports town with deep roots to NFL legends—Unitas, Marino, Ditka, Namath, and Montana. The Pittsburgh Steelers are undeniably one of the league's historic and most successful franchises, winning a league-record six Super Bowls, and boasting 30 Hall of Fame players throughout their rich history. All those who visit the Steel City will have the opportunity to experience this tradition of excellence if the city has the privilege of

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hosting the NFL Draft. Acrisure Stadium, formally known as Heinz Field, is a renowned football stadium situated in the heart of the North Shore neighborhood of Pittsburgh. With its unique horseshoe, two-tiered seating, it offers fantastic views of not only football, but of concerts such as Taylor Swift, Luke Combs, Kenny Chesney, as well as provides a remarkable view of the Steel City itself. Additionally, this stadium prides itself on providing the highest level of customer service, whether it's in the stadium or in its various event spaces that can hold anywhere from 5 to 5,000 people. Pittsburgh routinely holds large sporting events, is familiar with the hard work, excitement, and fun that comes with these types of events, and is well-prepared to efficiently handle the circumstances required to kick off a successful NFL Draft. However, the fan experience doesn't stop there. One of the area's most popular attractions is Point State Park, which sits at the confluence of Pittsburgh's Three Rivers. This spot marks a significant place in Pittsburgh's story and the birthplace of its community. Spectators from all over can enjoy the historic recreational space.

It's our belief that an NFL Draft in Pittsburgh will far surpass attendance for the NFL over the 2022 and 2023 numbers— with all eyes on Pennsylvania during the nation's semiquincentennial.

It is my sincere hope this bid receives a favorable review to host the NFL Draft, and I am confident you will find Pittsburgh to be the perfect opportunity to showcase such an exciting event. Thank you for your consideration and we hope to see you in Pittsburgh!

All the best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Josh Shapiro", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Governor Josh Shapiro