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Roger Goodell
Commissioner
National Football League
NFL Headquarters
345 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10065

Dear Commissioner Goodell:

I write regarding the multiple recent reports about a new spate of drug abuse by professional athletes who compete in the National Football League. These reports, which have included shocking and frequently criminal behavior, are the result of what appears to be a growing trend among football players — the dangerous use of synthetic cannabinoids.

As a State Senator, I have worked to keep our communities safe from this scourge for some time. I have introduced legislation, started an educational campaign, and traveled the state to meet with medical and law enforcement experts. I know first-hand how devastating the effects of this horrible drug can be. K2 utilizes an unpredictable chemical combination, the use of which can result in seizures, extreme anxiety, paranoia, hallucinations, heart failure, and death.

Indeed, our nation has already seen the devastating effects of this drug, most recently with the hospitalization of the New England Patriots' Chandler Jones, although he was not the first player to have to deal with this drug's aftermath.

College athletic programs have already taken steps to incorporate synthetic marijuana into their banned substances and drug testing programs. The NCAA added it to its list of banned substances in 2011, and the National Center for Drug-Free Sport offers testing resources to combat this problem.

Finally, it is no secret that sports stars often double as role models when it comes to our youth. We must ensure that their dangerous actions do not send the wrong message to our kids.

Now is an opportunity for the NFL to be a national leader in the fight against K2. Just as the NFL currently takes steps to ensure that players are free from other drugs, steps must also be taken to keep players free from this hazardous substance.

Commissioner Goodell, with your help, we can tackle K2 abuse.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Klein". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

State Senator Jeffrey D. Klein
New York State Senate Coalition Leader
& Independent Democratic Conference Leader
New York State Senate
34th Senate District
