

June 9, 2026

Senator Ted Cruz
Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee

Dear Senator Cruz:

I want to express my strong support for the bipartisan effort led by Senator Maria Cantwell and yourself to develop the Protecting College Sports Act. Your work reflects a serious and thoughtful attempt to bring stability and predictability to what has become an increasingly chaotic college athletics landscape.

While no piece of legislation can address every concern or satisfy every stakeholder, this bill takes important steps to establish greater clarity around Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) activities. It also provides important safeguards and oversight within the NIL marketplace while strengthening health, wellness, and academic support systems that help student-athletes succeed both on and off the field.

Throughout the debate over federal involvement in college athletics, colleges and universities have consistently identified three primary priorities: (1) creating a single national NIL framework through federal preemption of the current patchwork of state laws; (2) providing limited antitrust protections that allow governing bodies to establish and enforce reasonable eligibility and transfer rules; and (3) clarifying that student-athletes are not employees of their institutions.

The Protecting College Sports Act makes significant progress by addressing two of those three priorities. The bill creates a national approach to NIL and provides important antitrust protections that can help restore order and consistency to college athletics. While we would welcome additional clarity regarding the employment status of student-athletes, we recognize the importance of achieving bipartisan consensus and believe that the issue can be addressed through future legislative efforts.

Recognizing that the bill's provisions on the pooling of media rights, while voluntary, hold the potential to inject new revenue and further strengthen Olympic and women's sports, we would welcome the ability for non-FBS conferences to avail themselves of the same opportunity.

Given the urgent need for stability in college athletics and the meaningful progress represented by this legislation, the Missouri Valley Conference supports the Protecting College Sports Act.

Sincerely,



Jeff Jackson
Commissioner