



One Hundred Tenth Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20515

September 6, 2007

Brian Z. France, CEO  
NASCAR  
1801 West International Speedway Boulevard  
Daytona Beach, FL 32120

Dear Mr. France:

As the Chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I am very interested in how the Department of Homeland Security is working with its State, local, tribal, and private sector partners to keep Americans safe. Recently, I directed our Committee staff to look into how we can help those partners better prepare for events involving mass gatherings of people – with a specific focus on our Nation's most popular sporting events. On July 19, 2007, my staff met with NASCAR Director of Security Gary Gardner and NASCAR Managing Director of Public Affairs Marcus Jadotte to discuss a number of my concerns regarding mass gatherings and the security challenges they present. Mr. Gardner and Mr. Jadotte agreed that although NASCAR is doing an admirable job of identifying and addressing threats, Federal, State, and local efforts to support NASCAR would benefit from additional resources and coordination.

My staff is now conducting a study to determine how best to proceed in this direction and is very interested in getting further input from NASCAR and other private sector stakeholders. This fall, staff will be attending two NASCAR races, at which time they will meet with Federal, State and local officials as well as representatives from the private sector to discuss their efforts to support NASCAR security and safety.

We are hoping to learn more about the successes and challenges that you and your organization have faced as you strive to ensure that NASCAR continues to provide entertainment in safe and secure venues. Toward this end, I would greatly appreciate it if my staff could follow-up with you personally as part of their research. My staff and I would likewise be more than happy to meet with you the next time you are in Washington, D.C. to discuss these and other homeland security matters.

If you have any question regarding this project, please contact Dr. Asha M. George at (202) 226-2625 or [Asha.George@mail.house.gov](mailto:Asha.George@mail.house.gov). I appreciate your cooperation in this endeavor, and I look forward to working with you as we move forward with this important project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bennie G. Thompson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "B" and a stylized "G".

Bennie G. Thompson  
Chairman

BGT/amg