

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Witold Banka, President
World Anti-Doping Agency
Stock Exchange Tower
800 Place Victoria (Suite 1700)
P.O. Box 120
Montreal, Quebec H4Z 1B7
Canada

Dear Mr. Banka,

We, the undersigned members of Congress, are writing to express our grave concern regarding recent developments involving the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) and its handling of doping allegations. The transparency and integrity of global sports are at stake, and we believe it is imperative to address these issues promptly and thoroughly.

The allegations involve 23 Chinese swimmers who tested positive for banned substances before the Tokyo Summer Games in 2021.¹ Despite positive tests, WADA kept the results secret until they were revealed by journalists. This lack of transparency and accountability is deeply troubling.

It has now come to light that two additional Chinese swimmers, including one member of China's 2024 Paris Olympics team, tested positive in 2022 for a banned drug.² Chinese authorities were unable to determine exactly how the swimmers ingested the drug, a powerful anabolic steroid, but concluded that they had most likely done so unwittingly when they ate hamburgers at a restaurant in Beijing. This is now at least the third time in recent years that China has blamed contaminated food for positive tests by top swimmers.

We understand that the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) and many American athletes have voiced their distrust in WADA's procedures. They seek transparency and accountability, as evidenced by statements from prominent athletes like Katie Ledecky and Michael Phelps. Travis Tygart, head of USADA, has also highlighted the inconsistent application of rules by WADA, particularly toward Chinese and Russian sports teams.

The U.S. government is WADA's largest funding source. As such, we have a significant stake in ensuring that WADA operates with the highest standards of transparency and accountability. Our

¹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/20/world/asia/chinese-swimmers-doping-olympics.html>

² <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/07/30/us/politics/china-swimmers-doping-food.html>

taxpayers' money should not support an organization that fails to uphold the principles of fairness and justice in sports.

We request that WADA address the following:

1. Provide a detailed account of the investigation into the 23 Chinese swimmers' positive tests, including the rationale for keeping these results secret, and the scientific and testing data relied on by China and WADA in determining this was a case of contamination.
2. Complete a thorough and independent investigation, where the scope and investigator are determined by neutral third parties.
3. Review and reform WADA's processes to ensure no country or athlete is above the rules, maintaining a level playing field for all.

The American public, athletes, and the global sports community deserve answers. We stand by the principle that sports should be free from corruption and that those who violate anti-doping rules must be held accountable, regardless of nationality.

We look forward to your prompt response and a commitment to upholding the integrity of international sports.

Sincerely,



Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress