

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 29, 2024

Mr. Thomas Bach
President
International Olympic Committee
Maison Olympique
1007 Lausanne
Switzerland

Dear President Bach:

We write in response to the vulgar mockery of the Christian faith on display at the Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games Paris 2024. The Games should unite people of every country, race, and creed. There is no place for anti-Christian bigotry at an event designed to bring the world together. The Games should celebrate the athletes, not denigrate anyone's faith. We urge you to take immediate action by amending Rule 55 of the Olympic Charter to ensure that no faiths are the subject of mockery as part of the opening or closing ceremonies ever again.

There are more than 2.5 billion Christians globally. Africa is the region with the highest population of Christians with more than 700 million believers, followed by Latin America, and then Europe. 157 countries in our world are majority Christian nations, which is why your remarks following the mocking of the Christian faith rang hollow. "We do not only respect each other, we live in solidarity with each other." You went on to say that, "In a world torn apart by wars and conflicts, it is thanks to this solidarity that we can all come together tonight, uniting the athletes from the territories of all 206 National Olympic Committees and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team." How can we say we are in solidarity while bigotry and derision are part of the opening ceremonies?

The father of the modern Olympics, Pierre de Coubertin, once said: "May joy and good fellowship reign, and in this manner, may the Olympic Torch pursue its way through ages, increasing friendly understanding among nations, for the good of a humanity always more enthusiastic, more courageous and more pure." The International Olympic Committee (IOC) should formally condemn the mockery that occurred in Paris of one of the most sacred moments of the Christian faith. Then, the IOC should make formal changes to ensure this kind of divisive display is not repeated to ensure that Coubertin's vision for the Games may continue to thrive.

Every person, from every nation and every faith, should be encouraged to enjoy the Olympics without being belittled or mocked. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



James Lankford
United States Senator



Erin Houchin
Member of Congress



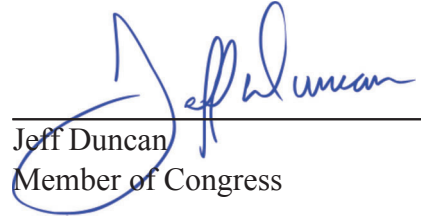
Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



Roger Marshall, M.D.
United States Senator



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



Ralph Norman
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Steve Daines
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Member of Congress



James E. Risch
United States Senator



Mary E. Miller
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United States Senator



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



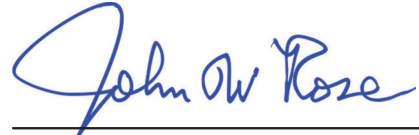
Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



Bob Good
Member of Congress



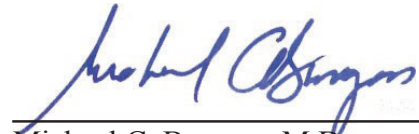
Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



John Rose
Member of Congress



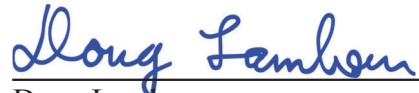
Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress



John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



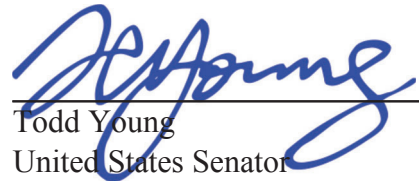
Katie Boyd Britt
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Robert B. Aderholt
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Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



Todd Young
United States Senator



Ted Budd
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Ted Cruz
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