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Mr. Vin Lananna, President  
Mr. Steven Miller, Chair, Board of Directors  
Mr. Max Siegel, Chief Executive Officer  
Mr. Duffy Mahoney, Chief of Sport Performance  
Mr. Norman Wain, General Counsel  
Ms. Aretha Thurmond, Director of International Teams  
Ms. Sandy Snow, Director of International & Championship Teams  
USATF National Headquarters  
132 E. Washington Street, Suite 800  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-3723

June 26, 2017

Ref. *Request for Declaration by USATF regarding Equal Treatment for Men and Women in the 50km IAAF Race Walk Events*

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

I represent race walker Erin Taylor-Talcott who has long fought for equality for women race walkers in the 50km race walk event, on both the national and international stages. In a companion letter, she and I request that she be included in the United States Team for the upcoming 2017 World Championships in London to compete in the 50km race walk event.

As her counsel, I am preparing for the next step given the expected resistance from IAAF and the gender bias embedded in its 50km race walk event program. USATF is to be applauded for providing for a women's national championship over 50km and for having selected women 50km walkers for the 2016 IAAF World Race Walking Team Championships and the Pan American Race Walking Cup. I commend USATF for its commitment to advocate that all IAAF race walk events should have equal treatment for men and women, expressed in the Agreement between USATF and Erin on May 9, 2014.

Given that the continued maintenance of these advocacy positions by USATF is an essential term of that Agreement, I request your assistance in Erin's ongoing quest for gender equality in the 50km race walk event.

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**I request that USATF provide a declaration executed by a Board member or executive staff official in support of the immediate implementation by IAAF of a gender neutral entry standard for the 50km race walk (one that would allow for the participation of Katie Burnett and Erin Taylor-Talcott in the August 13, 2017 London World Championships race), the ability of member federations to select up to three women walkers for that 50km London event, and the separate classifications for men and women walkers in that race.**

**This request is based on the strong commitment to gender equality shown by USATF in its Agreement with Erin, and the gender equality principles that are so fundamental to the IAAF Constitution and the principles of the Olympic Movement.**

**Please provide me with the requested declaration as soon as possible but no later than the close of business on July 5, 2017 as time is of essence in bringing a legal challenge against the IAAF in the Court of Arbitration for Sport.**

**With best regards,**

  
**Paul F. DeMeester  
Attorney for Erin Taylor-Talcott**

**cc: USATF Board of Directors**