



**Jeffrey Crossman**  
15<sup>th</sup> District

**Kent Smith**  
8<sup>th</sup> District

September 16, 2021

Jimmy & Dee Haslam,  
Managing & Principal Partners  
Cleveland Browns Football Company, LLC  
76 Lou Groza Boulevard  
Berea, Ohio 44017

Mayor Frank G. Jackson  
City of Cleveland  
601 Lakeside Ave.  
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Dear Mr. Haslam, Mrs. Haslam, and Mayor Jackson


Over the past year, we have all learned about FirstEnergy Corp.'s participation in the 2019 bribery scheme that resulted in FirstEnergy receiving millions of dollars in ill-gotten corporate subsidies funded by taxpayers. While the fallout from this massive corruption conspiracy continues to unfold, FirstEnergy did recently admit to engaging in criminal conduct in furtherance of the scheme. Given the recent admission of criminal conduct by FirstEnergy, we are writing now to urge you to cease your association with FirstEnergy and to completely remove the "FirstEnergy" name and logo from Cleveland Browns Stadium (the stadium's original and rightful name).

When the Cleveland Browns returned to the City and the National Football League in 1999, then owner Al Lerner decided to forego selling the stadium name to any corporation as a tribute to the many dedicated fans that fought to keep the "Browns" name, history, and traditions here in Cleveland. It was due to the significant effort and loyalty demonstrated by fans across the country, especially those of us here locally, who ensured pro-football survived in Northeast Ohio where it all began. Continuing to see the City of Cleveland and the Cleveland Browns support such an admittedly corrupt organization like FirstEnergy is a tremendous insult to those same fans. For life-long Cleveland Browns fans like us, it is unfathomable why such a community treasure like the Cleveland Browns would continue to promote a company like FirstEnergy after such a disgraceful admission; it is a repeated reminder of the fraud and corruption perpetrated on Ohioans. As the Browns are set to begin their home schedule, we think it is time to remove FirstEnergy's name from the stadium. We do not think FirstEnergy should have the honor and privilege to have its name attached to our City, our football team and certainly not our taxpayer funded stadium.

As you may be aware, this request is not without precedent in professional sports. On February 27, 2002, the Houston Astros stripped the "Enron" name and logo from its stadium to disassociate itself with another disgraced energy company. Immediately returning the name to "Cleveland Browns Stadium"

this year is an appropriate solution until the City and the Browns organization can find a more deserving and reputable replacement. Therefore, we respectfully urge you now to do the right thing by all of Ohio, especially the Cleveland Browns family of fans, and immediately cease your affiliation with a company that helped orchestrate the largest public corruption scandal in Ohio history.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Crossman



Kent Smith