

SENATOR'S NEWS RELEASE

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LAFLEUR SENDS LETTER TO BENSON: PLAYER LOCKOUT IS BAD DEAL FOR FANS AND TAXPAYERS

Senator Eric LaFleur of Ville Plate sent a second letter today to Tom Benson, the owner of the New Orleans Saints encouraging him and his fellow NFL owners to make every effort to come to an agreement with the NFL Players Association that will avoid a player lockout.

The Collective Bargaining Agreement between the NFL and the NFLPA is set to run out on March 4, 2011. If a new Collective Bargaining Agreement is not reached by that time, the owners could lock out the players and put the 2011 football season in jeopardy.

"Louisiana taxpayers have invested millions of their hard earned dollars in the Saints organization and Saint's fans have been loyal for decades, they deserve earnest negotiations and a resolution of this matter as soon as possible," said LaFleur.

"We have been successful in those efforts and the Saints have been successful, in part, as a result of Louisiana's efforts. It would be a step backwards not to work out an agreement as soon as possible and avoid a lockout."

"I am hopeful that the NFL and NFLPA will work to an agreement that will eliminate any possibility of a player lockout. Fans, businesses and Louisiana taxpayers are depending on all parties to achieve a successful negotiation," said LaFleur.

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