

**STATEMENT OF JERRY COLANGELO
CHAIRMAN OF AZPB LIMITED PARTNERSHIP,
OWNERSHIP GROUP OF THE ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS
JUNE 18, 2002**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today to discuss an issue of grave concern to me as an owner of a Major League Club and as a fan of Baseball -- the increasing prevalence of steroids in Major League Baseball.

I am fortunate enough to have been involved in Baseball since 1998 when the Arizona Diamondbacks were admitted to the National League as an expansion team. Last season, I experienced the ultimate thrill in all of professional sports – watching my team win perhaps the most exciting World Series in Baseball history. That win was a tremendous boost for the State of Arizona and generated terrific publicity for our sport.

Unfortunately, in recent weeks, Baseball has been forced to endure a spate of negative publicity as a result of revelations of steroid use by two former players.

These comments suggest that steroid use is prevalent in Baseball and on the increase.

I believe this trend must be stopped and reversed for two principal reasons: one, to protect the players' safety and health; and two, to protect the integrity of the game.

First, it is my understanding that players who use steroids risk serious health consequences, such as increased likelihood of injury, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, hypertension, depression and even infertility. Major League Baseball should do everything within its power to discourage players from taking these risks.

Major League players make it to this elite playing field because of their unwavering commitment and desire to win. As an All-State high school and an All-Big Ten basketball player for the University of Illinois, I understand and appreciate this desire to compete and succeed. Indeed, it is this desire to succeed that produces greatness.

Unfortunately, some players' desire is so strong that they are willing to take steroids in an effort to get an "edge" over other players. They do this in spite of the

negative consequences that may result from using steroids. This conduct at the Major League level has the inevitable domino effect of forcing other baseball players in both the Major and Minor Leagues to engage in the same conduct. In fact, many players believe that, without this same “edge,” they may be placed at a competitive disadvantage as compared to other players.

My purpose here is not to blame the players for this conduct. Instead, my purpose is to shed light on a problem that can be remedied and to encourage all those involved to work together to do so. As Rob Manfred discussed, Major League Baseball has done everything possible -- everything that is possible to do without the Players Association’s consent -- to prevent and end steroid use. We believe, however, that more needs to be done.

Based on my experience as an owner of the Phoenix Suns, a team in the National Basketball Association, the implementation of a comprehensive, mandatory steroid testing program would go far towards addressing this serious problem. Unlike

Major League Baseball, the NBA has a mandatory steroid testing program in place for its first year and veteran players, which was agreed to by the National Basketball Players Association. This testing program is set forth in the parties' 1999 collective bargaining agreement.

Pursuant to the NBA's testing program, each first year player is subject to up to four unannounced steroid tests per year and each veteran player is subject to one unannounced steroid test per year. It is my opinion that the NBA's testing program has been instrumental in discouraging players from using these dangerous and illegal substances.

We are hopeful that Baseball will have a mandatory steroid testing program in the near future. Such a program would be a necessary and fundamental step in the direction of ridding steroid use in Major League Baseball.