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COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

August 12, 2009

The Honorable Edward FitzGerald
Mayor of Lakewood
12650 Detroit Avenue
Lakewood, Ohio 44107-2832

Dear Mayor FitzGerald:

I write in support of the Lakewood Outdoor Basketball Committee (LOBC) in their efforts to reestablish outdoor public basketball hoops in Lakewood.

This group, led by Nadhal Eadeh, has dedicated a significant amount of thought and energy into maximizing the recreational and community benefits of public basketball courts and developing proposed use restrictions geared towards minimizing community and safety concerns.

Youth and adults in Lakewood deserve access to outdoor recreational activities that many can enjoy simultaneously. While indoor courts provide a playing option, many youth and adults with an interest in basketball do not have access to the limited indoor basketball courts within Lakewood. In addition, indoor games, while a preferred option for some persons, are not played in a park visible to the surrounding area and therefore do not carry with them inclusive, neighborhood-rooted dynamics which build and strengthen the quality of life of many in a community.

Public parks are a distinct and incomparable feature of all communities, and basketball courts are a relatively inexpensive, necessary component of a well-utilized and diversely patronized park.

I ask for your support in working with the Lakewood Outdoor Basketball Committee to appropriately restore this important outdoor community activity to Lakewood.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress