Dear Sir

I am the Chairman of SKINS, a sports clothing company that has supported many professional cycling teams and national federations. I have been intimately involved in the sport of cycling since 2008 and I want to see the sport of cycling set a clear and sustainable course for the future.

It is my strong belief that the sport of cycling will be irreparably harmed if Pat McQuaid is endorsed and re-elected as the UCI President. The UCI should operate as a democratic institution but the harsh reality is that there is a lack of potential candidates prepared to put their hand up for the Presidential election due to a fear of retribution should Mr. McQuaid succeed in retaining the position.

Since November last year, I have been involved in a movement called Change Cycling Now (CCN). With CCN, I set up a conference in London with senior stakeholders from the sport of cycling to discuss the sustainable future of the sport and we were unanimous in our conviction that for the future of cycling to be successful, we need a major change in culture and as such, it cannot involve Pat McQuaid as the President of the UCI.

As you may be aware, the decision of Mr. McQuaid’s endorsement will be put to an Extraordinary General Meeting of the members of the Irish Cycling Federation. There is a strong movement in Ireland against supporting Mr. McQuaid. Mr. McQuaid was initially endorsed by the Irish Cycling Federation Board but due to the weight of submissions against Mr. McQuaid’s endorsement from Irish cycling clubs, the endorsement was annulled and the issue shall now be put to a vote of the members on the 15th of June 2013.

I strongly expect that Pat will not receive endorsement of the Irish Cycling members. Under these circumstances, Mr. McQuaid’s only other option for endorsement is to seek approval from the Swiss Cycling Federation; as Mr. McQuaid is a Swiss resident, he may also seek endorsement from the country of his residency.

The reason for this email is that General Counsel for SKINS, Benjamin Fitzmaurice, wrote an email two days ago to the Swiss Cycling President, Mr. Richard Chassot, seeking a meeting to offer an alternate view to the potential endorsement of Pat McQuaid for the role of President. Mr. Chassot has not responded to this request. Mr. Fitzmaurice sent this email because of the likelihood, given the situation in Ireland, that Mr. McQuaid will seek endorsement from the Swiss Cycling Federation.

If Mr. McQuaid seeks endorsement from the Swiss Cycling Federation, I strongly urge you to vote against it.

For the last 22 years, there have been 2 people at the head of world cycling and it is time for change. The sport of competitive and professional cycling is at a cross-roads. The UCI has alienated itself with the professional teams, fans and stakeholders as well as the World Anti-doping Authority (WADA). This alienation is the sole responsibility of Pat McQuaid and Hein Verbruggen. Rather than listen to criticism, take on board advice and acknowledge the facts, Mr. McQuaid and Mr. Verbruggen used UCI funds to attack and silence stakeholders in the law courts of Switzerland. **I ask you, is this how a President should behave in the administration of cycling?** If you want to understand how this behaviour is viewed by the cycling public, you need look no further than social media and how the Paul Kimmage fund raised approximately USD 96,000 to help defend him against Mr. McQuaid’s aggressive and unfair tactics.

Much has been written about the failures of Pat McQuaid in the administration of cycling. You only have to look to recent events where he unilaterally established, at great expense, an Independent Commission (UCIIC) to investigate the findings of corruption and mismanagement at the UCI in the USADA ‘Reasoned Decision’, only to disband the whole process when the UCIIC exercised their right to act in an independent fashion. Mr. McQuaid unilaterally committed and was prepared to waste in excess of half of the UCI Reserve fund to this process.

Mr. McQuaid is incapable of leading meaningful change in cycling. Many senior cycling stakeholders have openly criticised Mr. McQuaid. Recently, those voices have been strong because of the imperative for change. I refer you to:

* The open letter to Mr. McQuaid from Greg Lemond:

“*I want to tell the world of cycling to please join me in telling Pat McQuaid to f##k off and resign. I have never seen such an abuse of power in cycling's history- resign Pat if you love cycling. Resign even if you hate the sport.*

*Pat McQuaid, you know damn well what has been going on in cycling, and if you want to deny it, then even more reasons why those who love cycling need to demand that you resign.*”

<http://nyvelocity.com/content/features/2012/open-letter-pat-mcquaid-greg-lemond>;

* Popular cycling website – Red Kite Prayer, where it is said:

“*I have, however, yet to meet a single cyclist who believes that meaningful change in cycling is possible while McQuaid heads the UCI. Somehow, after a shocking torrent of new details that have disappointed every serious fan the sport has, we are poised to enter yet another grand tour with the status quo not only intact, but inviolate.*

***This isn’t just disappointment. This is the ache of depression, that deep resignation to futility that leeches color from life.***”

<http://redkiteprayer.com/tag/pat-mcquaid/>

* Lance Armstrong said in a recent interview following the Oprah Winfrey tell-all:

"*Pat is just in constant CYA (Cover Your Ass) mode. Pathetic…*

*…Let me say that cycling will never die it will just simmer. Zero growth. Sponsors leaving, races cancelled - this we are seeing. This current state of chaos and petty bullshit, tit for tat, etc, will just ensure that cycling goes flat or negative for a decade plus. Which is a real shame for the current crop of young pros the sport has.*"

<http://www.independent.co.uk/sport/general/others/cycling-lance-armstrong-heavily-critical-of-uci-president-pat-mcquaid-in-first-interview-since-confession-8473499.html>

The administration of cycling needs to change. The unequivocal overhaul of cycling can only be achieved by a leadership, rooted in integrity within a credible and capable governing body. Mr. McQuaid is not that man to overhaul the administration of cycling and change the culture within. If Mr. McQuaid is endorsed for election to the position of President of the UCI, nothing will change. We will continue to see the sport decline.

Furthermore, if Swiss Cycling is asked by Mr. McQuaid for endorsement and he is endorsed, he will be thwarting the democratic process commenced by the Irish Cycling Federation and Swiss Cycling will be viewed in a negative light, not just by sponsors and stakeholders but by the world at large. The reputation of Swiss Cycling will be diminished and sadly, the sport will have lost an opportunity for positive change. I also believe that we will see damage done to the reputation of Switzerland in general as we have seen regarding Spain in the aftermath of the Operacion Puerto trial and the decision to destroy in excess of 200 bags of blood.

I strongly urge you not to consider endorsing Pat McQuaid for the UCI Presidential election if he seeks endorsement from Swiss Cycling. I am prepared to meet with any member or members of the Swiss Cycling Federation board to discuss further should you desire.

Yours sincerely

Jaimie Fuller