

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 9, 2026

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2322 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Guthrie,

I write to request that you open a formal congressional inquiry, consistent with the Committee's jurisdiction over broadcast regulation and FCC oversight, into the National Football League (NFL) and NBCUniversal regarding their prior knowledge, review, and approval of explicit and indecent content broadcast during the Apple Music Super Bowl LX Halftime Show on February 8, 2026.

The halftime performance, headlined by Bad Bunny, was aired live during prime-time hours on over-the-air television and viewed by tens of millions of Americans, including a substantial number of children and families. The Super Bowl is consistently the largest family viewing event in American media. As such, broadcasters bear a heightened responsibility to ensure that programming aired during this uniquely national event complies with longstanding broadcast decency expectations and serves the public interest.

The performance included songs such as "Safaera," a track widely known for explicit sexual references and graphic lyrical content, including references to anilingus, sexual intercourse, and other explicit themes, as well as "Yo Perreo Sola," a twerking and perreo-themed song accompanied by choreography featuring overtly sexualized movements including widespread twerking, grinding, pelvic thrusts, and other sexually suggestive conduct.

While the set was performed predominantly in Spanish, it relied on songs whose sexual content remained readily apparent across any language barrier. This language barrier did not mitigate the explicit nature of the material; rather, it heightened the broadcaster's obligation to exercise reasonable diligence in reviewing, translating, and evaluating the content prior to airing. I am also concerned that there may be less clarity in the application of existing rules to non-English language content, particularly where enforcement relies on public complaints and broadcaster-provided translations. We must ensure that we hold Spanish language content to the same standards and expectations we have for English language content.

Given the scale and prominence of the Super Bowl broadcast, it is highly implausible that the NFL and NBCUniversal lacked advance knowledge of the performance's content. Rehearsals were conducted, setlists and production elements were submitted in advance, and broadcast networks maintain delay mechanisms, commonly referred to as a seven-second delay, specifically intended to prevent indecent or inappropriate material from reaching live audiences. The failure to utilize these safeguards raises serious questions regarding whether adequate standards and practices review occurred and whether reasonable steps were taken to prevent explicit material from being broadcast to a nationwide family audience.

These circumstances raise legitimate concerns under federal broadcast indecency standards, including 18 U.S.C. § 1464, as well as the broader obligation of licensed broadcasters to operate in the “public interest, convenience, and necessity.” Broadcasting a performance dominated by sexually explicit lyrical themes and suggestive choreography during the most widely viewed family broadcast of the year calls into question whether NBCUniversal fulfilled its responsibilities under these longstanding standards.

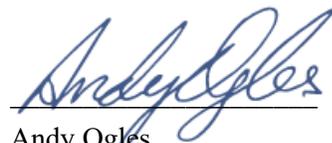
While the FCC’s direct licensing authority applies to local broadcast stations rather than national networks themselves, Congress retains a clear responsibility to ensure that the statutory framework governing the public airwaves is effective and adequately enforced. Where widely viewed national programming is produced, curated, and distributed through complex corporate and contractual arrangements, oversight is necessary to determine whether existing laws and regulatory mechanisms are sufficient to protect the public interest and whether gaps in accountability have emerged. Congressional review is therefore appropriate to ensure that the law continues to function as intended in safeguarding the airwaves relied upon by American families.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee examine:

- What knowledge NFL and NBCUniversal executives, producers, and standards personnel had regarding the explicit nature of the selected songs, including “Safaera,” and accompanying choreography prior to broadcast;
- The internal review, translation, and approval processes used in preparing the halftime show for live broadcast;
- Whether existing safeguards, including broadcast delay protocols and standards review procedures, were properly applied or intentionally disregarded; and
- The broader implications for broadcaster accountability when explicit content is aired during programming that reaches a national audience of families and minors.

Given the strong public reaction and the volume of complaints reportedly submitted to the Federal Communications Commission, timely oversight would help ensure that broadcasters entrusted with access to the public airwaves continue to meet their obligations to the American public. This matter warrants serious examination, and I look forward to your leadership on this issue. Thank you for your attention, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andy Ogles", is written over a horizontal line.

Andy Ogles
Member of Congress