

July 24, 2006

Dr. John D. Welty, President
California State University, Fresno
5241 North Maple Avenue
Fresno, California 93740-8027

Dear President Welty:

During general comments at our City Council meeting held July 18, 2006, the subject of Fresno State's discontinuation of its intercollegiate wrestling program was discussed.

The City of Tulare would like to express its support for the Fresno State wrestling program. Although the decision was made to discontinue the program effective July 1, 2006, it is our hope that action will be reconsidered. This program provides an outlet for athletes that cannot be found elsewhere in our immediate area. For students-athletes from the Tulare/Visalia area, Fresno State is the nearest four-year institution offering a wrestling program.

The schools and colleges in the Central San Joaquin Valley have long been recognized for their tremendous wrestling programs, and the popularity of wrestling has not waned. The perseverance, stamina and personal dedication of these athletes will become an intrinsic part of their lives and serve them well throughout their education and careers. In addition, we lose so many of our youth to larger communities and colleges. It is important to make programs available locally to encourage students to stay in the area, complete their education, and return to their communities to contribute to the economic growth and quality of life.

We know that you must make difficult decisions to ensure the most effective use of budgeted funds, however, hope you will revisit the decision to eliminate the wrestling program. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Ortega (ss)

Richard M. Ortega
Mayor

RMO/cs

c: Thomas Boeh, Athletics Director