



## United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

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### USET Resolution No. 2014:015

#### **CALLING ON THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE TO END THE USE OF THE WASHINGTON D.C. RACIALLY OFFENSIVE SLUR TEAM MASCOT NAME**

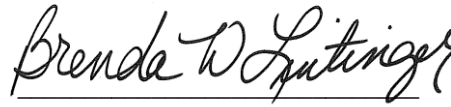
- WHEREAS,** United South and Eastern Tribes Incorporated (USET) is an intertribal organization comprised of twenty-six (26) federally recognized Tribes; and
- WHEREAS,** the actions taken by the USET Board of Directors officially represent the intentions of each member Tribe, as the Board of Directors comprises delegates from the member Tribes' leadership; and
- WHEREAS,** The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines "redskin" as a "usually offensive" term to describe American Indians. Alden Vaughn (1982) in his paper "From White Man to Redskin: Changing Anglo-American Perceptions of the American Indian" states that identifiers for ethnic groups based upon physical characteristics, including skin color, are almost universally slurs, or derogatory, emphasizing the difference between the speaker and the target; and
- WHEREAS,** the use of the term 'redsk\*ns' for the team mascot and nickname of the Washington National Football League (NFL) team is offensive and hurtful to the Native American population and causes direct harmful effects to the public health and well-being of the Native American population; and
- WHEREAS,** opponents of changing the Washington team's nickname point to outdated polls that claim the majority of Americans are not offended by the name; it is clear that you cannot poll morality; and
- WHEREAS,** every major Native American organization, along with numerous media outlets, authors, civil rights organizations, clergy leaders and elected officials, including the President of the United States, have voiced support for changing the team name; and
- WHEREAS,** the term 'redsk\*ns' would not be used by a person when visiting the home of a Native American person or family, and should not be used to market a professional sports team; and
- WHEREAS,** those who are leveling the offensive term 'redsk\*ns' do not get to decide the intent or level of harm originating from the term, the level of harm shall be decided by the recipient of the slur; and
- WHEREAS,** in December 2010, the United States recognized the rights of its First Peoples through its support of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), whose provisions and principles support and promote the purposes of this resolution; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors affirms its full support of the Oneida Indian Nation 'Change the Mascot' campaign and the change to the nickname and mascot of the Washington National Football League team; and, be it further
- RESOLVED** the USET Board of Directors requests the National Football League to change the name of the Washington National Football League team nickname and to end the use of the racially offensive slur 'redsk\*ns'.

**CERTIFICATION**

This resolution was duly passed at the USET Annual Meeting, at which a quorum was present, in Cherokee, NC, on Thursday, October 31, 2013.



Brian Patterson, President  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.



Brenda Lintinger, Secretary  
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.

*“Because there is strength in Unity”*