



Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish  
Band of Pottawatomí Indians  
**GUN LAKE TRIBE**

David K. Sprague  
Tribal Chairman

Federally Acknowledged  
August 23, 1999

Service Area: Allegan, Barry  
Kalamazoo, Kent, and  
Ottawa Counties

**RESOLUTION 13-810  
OF THE MATCH-E-BE-NASH-SHE-WISH BAND  
OF POTTAWATOMI INDIANS**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING RENAMING OF THE WASHINGTON “REDSKINS”**

**WHEREAS**, The Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomí Indians of Michigan is a federally recognized Indian Tribe organized pursuant to a Constitution approved by the Tribal Membership on June 19, 2000; and

**WHEREAS**, The Governing Body of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomí Indians of Michigan is the Tribal Council; and

**WHEREAS**, The Tribal Council of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomí Indians of Michigan is authorized pursuant to Article VII, Section 1(I) of the Tribal Constitution to enact resolutions or ordinances; and,

**WHEREAS**, The Tribal Council is authorized pursuant to Article VII, Section 1(I) of the Tribal Constitution to promote education, protect the health, security and general welfare of the Tribe; and

**WHEREAS**, The Tribal Council understands that Senator Maria Cantwell is the Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, and Congressman Tom Cole (OK) and Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN) are the Co-Chairs of the Native American Caucus of the United States House of Representatives; and

**WHEREAS**, The Tribal Council supports Senator/Chairwoman Cantwell and Co-Chairs in their commitment to the Tribe and all of Indian Country, to improve the lives of American Indians nationwide, and to changing the name of the Washington D.C.’s National Football League (“NFL”) franchise; and

**WHEREAS**, The Tribal Council views the use of the term “Redskins” as the name of an NFL franchise or any school/sports-related “Redskins” mascot as derogatory and racist; and

**WHEREAS**, The Tribal Council understands the term “Redskins” perpetuates harmful stereotypes, even if unintentional, and continues the damaging practice or relegating American Indian people to the past and as a caricature; and

**WHEREAS**, The Tribal Council, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of the Tribe, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of American Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Tribal Council of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians does hereby oppose the use of the term "Redskins" as the name of the Washington D.C.'s NFL franchise (or any school- or sports-related mascot with the name "Redskins") and hereby supports Senator Cantwell, Congressman Cole, and Congresswoman Betty McCollum in their commitment to rename the football franchise.

**CERTIFICATION**

We, the undersigned duly elected officials of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians, do hereby certify that on October 10, 2013, the foregoing Resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Tribal Council with a quorum present by a vote of 5 for; 0 against; 1 abstaining; and 1 absent.

  
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CHAIRMAN

10-10-13  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
VICE-CHAIRMAN

10-10-13  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dated