



INTER TRIBAL COUNCIL of ARIZONA

November 1, 2013

- MEMBER TRIBES
- AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
- COCOPAH TRIBE
- COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES
- FORT MCDOWELL YAVAPAI NATION
- FORT MOHAVE TRIBE
- GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY
- HAVASUPAI TRIBE
- HOPAI TRIBE
- HUALAPAI TRIBE
- KAIBAB-PAIUTE TRIBE
- PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE
- PUEBLO OF ZUNI
- QUECHAN TRIBE
- SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY
- SAN CARLOS APACHE TRIBE
- TOKONO O'ODHAM NATION
- TONTO APACHE TRIBE
- WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE
- YAVAPAI APACHE NATION
- YAVAPAI PRESCOTT INDIAN TRIBE

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
 Chairwoman
 Senate Committee on Indian Affairs
 838 Hart Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20005

RE: Indian Mascots

Dear Chairwoman Cantwell:

On behalf of the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, I write to express our strong opposition to the name "Redskins" for the National Football League's (NFL) Washington D.C. franchise. This term is racist and harmful and perpetuates harmful stereotypes, even if it is unintentional, because it perpetuates negative stereotypes. The NFL should change the name.

The caricature of Indians personified by "Chief Zee" at Redskins games – with his faux headdress and tomahawk – is especially insensitive. Washington Redskins football games are perhaps the last place in the U.S. where such a spectacle is not only tolerated, but also embraced. With schools, colleges, and even the NCAA updating their mascots and policies during the past decade, we believe the Washington Redskins organization should do the same.

For these reasons, we request that the Committee examine the Indian mascot issue and the Washington Redskins organization in particular through an oversight hearing or the facilitation of dialogue. We appreciate your consideration of this letter and we look forward to working with you on this matter.

Sincerely,

Terry Rambler,
 President, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona
 Chairman, San Carlos Apache Tribe

xc: Arizona Tribal Leaders
 Governor Janice K. Brewer, State of Arizona