



Change the Mascot!

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Change the Mascot: NFL Appeal is Desperate Defense of Racial Epithet

The Change the Mascot Campaign, led by the National Congress of American Indians and the Oneida Indian Nation, issued the following statement in response to the announcement that the Washington NFL team and the National Football League are appealing the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's ruling to cancel the trademark registration of the Washington franchise:

“The National Football League claims it has a no-tolerance policy when it comes to racism, but by continuing to fight a court battle defending its promotion of a dictionary-defined racial slur, the league makes clear it is a proud purveyor of bigotry against Native Americans. If the league genuinely cared about equality, civility and mutual respect, then it would stand on the right side of history with Native American organizations, civil rights groups, religious leaders, sports icons, and Members of Congress from both parties who have called for Washington's team to change its name. It would not continue deploying its army of lawyers to clog the courts with increasingly desperate defenses of a racial epithet. The real question this latest appeal raises is simple: why are the NFL and the Washington team so pathologically committed to continuing to slur Native Americans?”

Here's a recent story from The Washington Post on this topic:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/redskins-defend-name-ask-federal-court-to-overturn-trademark-decision/2014/08/14/3f05b76e-2189-11e4-958c-268a320a60ce_story.html