



**Change the Mascot!**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Joel Barkin  
Oneida Nation V.P. for Communications  
(315) 361-8173  
[jbarkin@oneida-nation.org](mailto:jbarkin@oneida-nation.org)

## **Oneida Indian Nation Responds to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell's Remarks Defending the Racist Name of Washington's Team**

ONEIDA NATION HOMELANDS (NY) (January 31, 2014) The Oneida Indian Nation and its Change the Mascot campaign responded to the remarks made by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell in the news conference following his State of the NFL address Friday in New York City. Goodell defended the Washington team's usage of the racially insensitive R-word slur as its name and mascot. Oneida Nation Representative Ray Halbritter has issued the following statement in response to Goodell's remarks.

"It is deeply troubling that with the Super Bowl happening on lands that were once home to Native Americans, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell would use the event as a platform to insist that the dictionary-defined R-word racial slur against Native Americans is somehow a sign of honor."

"Commissioner Goodell represents a \$9-billion brand with global reach, yet insists that it is somehow no big deal that his league uses those vast resources to promote this slur. In the process, he conveniently ignores all the social science research showing that the NFL's promotion of this word has serious cultural and psychological effects on native peoples. Worse, he cites the heritage of the team's name without mentioning that the name was given to the team by one of America's most famous segregationists, George Preston Marshall. He also somehow

doesn't mention the heritage of the R-word itself, which was as an epithet screamed at Native Americans as they were forced at gunpoint off their lands."

"The fact that Mr. Goodell doesn't seem to know any of this - or is deliberately ignoring it - suggests that for all his claims to be listening, he isn't listening at all."

###

Learn more at [www.changethemascot.org](http://www.changethemascot.org)

Follow us on Twitter:

[@ChangeDCMascot](https://twitter.com/ChangeDCMascot)

[@OneidaNatnNews](https://twitter.com/OneidaNatnNews)