



Change the Mascot!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Brett Stagnitti
Oneida Nation Public Affairs Manager
(315) 829-8310
bstagnitti@oneida-nation.org

Oneida Indian Nation Applauds Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid for Opposing D.C. NFL Team Name

ONEIDA NATION HOMELANDS (NY) (December 19, 2013) The Oneida Indian Nation today thanked Senate Major Leader Harry Reid for speaking out against the name of Washington's NFL team, which he said "denigrate[s] a race of people." Reid has joined a powerful and diverse group of Washington lawmakers from both sides of the aisle who have called for a name change.

A bipartisan group of leaders in Washington including House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Representatives Tom Cole, Betty McCollum and Eleanor Holmes Norton have also taken a stand against the R-word, as has President Obama. The D.C. Council has unanimously passed a resolution calling on its hometown football team to drop its offensive mascot.

"I think [Washington team owner Daniel] Snyder is so short-sighted on this," Reid said in an interview with The Hill. "We live in a society where you can't denigrate a race of people. And that's what that is. I mean, you can't have the Washington Blackskins. I think it's so short-sighted."

Change the Mascot is a growing national grassroots movement urging the team to end its use of the R-word. While running radio ads in each city where the D.C. team plays away games, Change the Mascot has garnered increasing support among not only political leaders, but also

religious groups, Native American tribes, schools and school boards and top civil rights organizations.

Just last week, leading civil rights coalition The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights [passed a resolution](#) urging the Washington NFL team to change its offensive name. The Houston school board also [voted recently](#) to end the use of the racially-insensitive R-word in its district.

“I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to Senate Major Leader Reid for speaking out boldly against racial intolerance and bigotry,” said Oneida Indian Nation Representative Ray Halbritter. “On behalf of the Oneida Indian Nation and the Change the Mascot campaign, I thank Senator Reid for opposing the R-word and standing up for what is right. Demands for change from America’s top leaders give energy to our Change the Mascot movement, and they inspire us to push ahead with our calls for the Washington team and the NFL to finally place themselves on the right side of history.”

Learn more at www.changethemascot.org and follow us on Twitter [@ChangeDCMascot](https://twitter.com/ChangeDCMascot)

###

Follow us on Twitter:

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

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