



Change the Mascot!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Native American Leaders to Washington Team Owner Dan Snyder: Yes, We are Offended by Your Team's Name, and No, We Will Not be Ignored

Washington NFL team owner Dan Snyder and other team representatives, including loyal employees and a subsidized group composed of former players, recently claimed that they haven't heard from any Native Americans who are offended by the team's name. The Change the Mascot campaign is now calling upon the team to recognize the large number of major tribal organizations and Native American leaders who have openly stated their opposition.

ONEIDA NATION HOMELANDS (NY) (AUG. 8, 2014) The Change the Mascot campaign is decrying attempts by Washington NFL team owner Dan Snyder and his surrogates to pretend that no Native Americans are opposed to the team's name. Campaign leaders the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and the Oneida Indian Nation are calling upon the team to recognize the large number of Native American organizations and leaders who strongly oppose the team's continued use of the dictionary-defined R-word racial slur.

Snyder recently made light of his team's offensive name by saying: "it's sort of fun to talk about the name of our football team."

In the latest cynical PR move by the team, which backfired heavily, former Washington team kicker Mark Moseley appeared on T.V. and used a second racial slur to defend the team's continued use of the R-word. "No red men have said anything derogatory to me about it," Moseley said.

In response, NCAI Executive Director Jackie Pata and Oneida Nation Representative Ray Halbritter stated:

"It adds insult to injury that not only does the team not take to heart the deep harm they're causing through the use of this disparaging epithet, but that they continue to ignore our very existence by claiming that they haven't heard from any Native Americans who are opposed to the team's name. Dan Snyder continues to live in a bigoted billionaire bubble if he is unable or unwilling to see that huge numbers of Native Americans and others from various walks of life all across this country find the team's name incredibly offensive."

"If Dan Snyder really wants to hear opinions from Indian Country, maybe he should accept our continued invitations to meet and discuss this issue, or ask the major tribal organizations what they think. Rather than dropping by cherry-picked reservations in his private jet with promises of new iPads and skate parks branded with the team logo, why doesn't he take the time to meet with Native American organizations which have zero financial interest in a name change to hear why we think it's such a vital issue for he and his team to stop denigrating us with their racist mascot?"

"Snyder and his employees should stop using cheap PR tactics to imply that they're honoring the very Native Americans who are telling him that we are offended and are being ignored. It is the height of arrogance for Snyder and his employees to dictate to people of color how we should feel about being the target of a racial slur."

Change the Mascot urges Snyder and others affiliated with the team to take a look at what Native Americans are saying about the issue. Below is a list of the major tribal organizations, leaders and members who oppose the name, as well as a list of the letters and resolutions passed by Native American tribes and organizations opposing the R-word mascot.

Native Americans Unite to Speak Out Against Racially Offensive Mascot Name

Major Tribal Organizations

USET

United South and Eastern Tribes (USET), an inter-tribal organization with 26 federally-recognized Tribal Nations, passed a resolution "Calling on the National Football League to End the Use of the Washington, D.C. racially offensive slur Team Mascot Name" at 2013 annual meeting.

<http://www.changethemascot.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/2014-015-Washington-mascot.pdf>

NCAI

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), the oldest, largest and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization, has passed several resolutions calling on the elimination of the use of racist stereotype images, logos and mascots in sports, including the Washington NFL team mascot.

<http://www.ncai.org/policy-issues/community-and-culture/anti-defamation-mascots>

NCAI Report on History and Legacy of Washington's Harmful "Indian" Sports Mascot

<http://www.ncai.org/news/articles/2013/10/10/ncai-releases-report-on-history-and-legacy-of-washington-s-harmful-indian-sports-mascot>

[Native Peoples Speak Out About Native Mascots](#) - a video by the NCAI. The following tribal leaders are interviewed in the video:

- Cathy Abramson - Councilmember, Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians
- Al Goozmer – President, Tyonek Native Village of Alaska
- Brian Cladoosby – Chairman, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and President, NCAI
- Edwina Butler Wolfe – Governor, Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
- Leander McDonald – Tribal Chairman, Spirit Lake Tribe
- Dennis Welsh – Chairman, Colorado River Indian Tribes
- Candace Bossard – Councilmember, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska

[NCAI Proud To Be Video](#) highlights the defining and distinguished characteristics, names and legacies of many Native American tribes throughout the United States. But as the video clearly states, there is one denigrating term which Native peoples never use to describe themselves: R*dskin. In June the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation paid to have a shorter version aired during the NBA finals.

NCAI #ProudToBe photo slideshow provides Native people a way to show what they are proud to be - so many things but not your mascot.

<http://www.changethemascot.org/proud-to-be/>

New Study

[A recent study by the California State University, San Bernadino reports 67% of Native Americans find the Washington Redskins name and imagery racist.](#)

Letters and Resolutions Passed By Native American Tribes and Organizations

Letters

The following are letters from several Indian Nations to The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, expressing strong opposition to the use of the term “R*dskins” by the NFL and the Washington team.

[Hoh Indian Tribe](#)

[Penobscot Nation](#)

[Samish Indian Nation](#)

[Shoshone-Bannock Tribes](#)

[Inter Tribal Council of Arizona](#)

[Native American Finance Officers Association \(NAFOA\)](#)

[Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians](#)

[Poarch Band of Creek Indians](#)

[The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation](#)

Resolutions

Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians

<http://www.changethemascot.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/ATNI.pdf>

Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians Gun Lake Tribe

<http://www.changethemascot.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Gun-Lake-Tribal-Council-Resolution-13-810-Supporting-the-Renaming-of-the-DC-NFL-Franchise.pdf>

The Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes

Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma and Muscogee (Creek) Nation

<http://www.changethemascot.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Intertribal-Council-of-Five-Civilized-Tribes-Washington-Sports-Team-Resolution.pdf>

The Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation

<http://www.changethemascot.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Ft-Berthold-Resolution.pdf>

National Indian Education Association Resolution 2013-07: Support for Elimination of Race-Based Native Logos, Mascots and Names

<http://www.changethemascot.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/NIEA-Resolution.pdf>

The Dine Medicine Men's Association, Inc. of the Navajo Nation

<http://www.changethemascot.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/DMMA-Doc.pdf>

Fort Peck Tribal Executive Board (Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of Fort Peck Reservation)

<http://www.changethemascot.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Ft-Peck-Resolution.pdf>

National Coalition of Native American Athletes (NCNAA)

<https://twitter.com/NCNAA2011/status/494485832699346944/photo/1>

Native American Contractors Association

http://www.changethemascot.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Native-American_African-American-Communities_Against_Racism-051314.pdf

Society of American Indian Government Employees

<http://saige.org/words/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/SAIGE-Position-on-Mascots.pdf>

United Tribes of Michigan

<http://aistm.org/2013UTM.resolution.pdf>

Little Traverse Bay Band of Odawa Indians

<http://aistm.org/2005.little.traverse.bay.odawa.htm>

Native American Journalist Association

<http://aistm.org/1994naja.htm>

Tribal Organizations, Tribal Leaders and Tribal Members

[Wisconsin Indian Education Association](#)

[Oregon Indian Education Association](#)

[Kansas Association for Native American Education](#)

[National Indian Gaming Association \(NIGA\)](#)

[Eradicating Offensive Native Mascotry \(EONM\)](#)

[Navajo Nation](#)

[Quechan Tribe](#)

[Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin](#)

[Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation](#)

[Oneida Nation of New York](#)

[Battle Mountain Band of Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada](#)

[American Indian Movement](#)

[Akiak Native Community, Councilman Mike Williams](#)

[Alaska Inter-Tribal Council](#)

[American Indian College Fund, President & CEO Cheryl Crazy Bull](#)

[American Indian Higher Education Consortium, President & CEO Carrie Billy](#)

[Americans for Indian Opportunity](#)

[California Indian Museum and Cultural Center, Executive Director Nicole Lim](#)

[California Valley Miwok Tribe](#)

[Center for Native American Youth, Executive Director Erin Bailey](#)

[Central Council of Tlingit & Haida Tribes of Alaska](#)

[Colorado River Indian Tribes, Councilman Dennis Welsh, Jr.](#)

[The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement](#)

[Cowlitz Indian Tribe, Chairman & COO William B. Iyall](#)

[First Nations Development Institute, President Mike Roberts](#)

[First Peoples Fund, President Lori Pourier](#)

[Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa](#)

[Honoring Nations](#)

[Indian Land Tenure Foundation](#)

[Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Tribal Chairman & CEO W. Ron Allen](#)

[Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma, Committeeman Steven Smith](#)

[Lenape Indian Tribe of Delaware, Principal Chief Dennis J. Coker](#)

[Midwest Alliance of Sovereign Tribes, Executive Director Scott Vele](#)

[Narragansett Tribe, Councilman Randy Noka](#)

[National Indian Child Welfare Association, Executive Director Terry Cross](#)

[National Indian Health Board](#)

[National Indian Justice Center, Executive Director Joseph Myers](#)

[National Native American Bar Association](#)

[Native Public Media, President & CEO Loris Taylor](#)

[Native American Rights Fund, Executive Director John Echohawk](#)

[Native Village of Buckland, President Percy Ballot](#)

[Native Voice Network](#)

[Nottoway Indian Tribe of Virginia, Chief Lynette Allston](#)

[Pueblo de Cochiti, Governor Joseph Henry Suina](#)

[Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, Chairman John Berrey](#)

[Quinault Indian Nation, President Fawn Sharp](#)

[Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Chairperson Rose Soulier](#)

[Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, Chairman Arlan Melendez](#)

[San Carlos Apache Tribe, Chairman Terry Rambler](#)

[Self-Governance Communication & Education Tribal Consortium](#)

[Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation, Chairman Robert Shepherd](#)

[Sobobo Band of Mission Indians, Tribal Chairwoman Rosemary Morillo](#)

[Spirit Lake Tribe, Chairman Leander McDonald](#)

[Stevens Village Tribal Council, Chief Randy Mayo](#)

[Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Chairman Brian Cladoosby](#)

[Tanana Chiefs Conference, President & Chairman Jerry Isaac](#)

[Tribal Law & Policy Institute, Executive Director Jerry Gardner](#)

[United Cherokee Ani-Yun-Wiya Nation, Charles Yow, Esq.](#)

[Women Empowering Women for Indian Nations](#)

[The Morning Star Institute](#)

[Suzan Shown Harjo \(Cheyenne & Hodulgee Muscogee\), President, Morning Star Institute](#)

[Amanda Blackhorse, Navajo, Social Worker](#)

[Bob Burns, Blackfeet Elder](#)

[Charlene Teters, Spokane](#)

[Billy Mills, Oglala Lakota, Olympic Gold Medal Winner](#)

[Kevin Gover, Director of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.](#)

[Levi Horn \(Cheyenne\), former Chicago Bears player](#)

[Notah Begay III, former PGA TOUR Professional, announcer for the Golf Channel](#)

[Ted Nolan, Ojibwa, former Buffalo Sabres head coach](#)

[Tim Giago, publisher of Native Sun Times](#)

[Joey Browner, former NFL player](#)

[Shoni Schimmel, WNBA](#)

[Simon Moya-Smith, writer, Oglala Lakota](#)

[W. Richard West Jr., Cheyenne, president and chief executive of the Autry National Center of the American West, L.A.](#)

[Sarah LittleRedfeather Kalmanson](#)

[Dahkota Franklin Kicking Bear Brown](#)

[Claudia Fox Tree, Arawak Nation](#)

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