



December 14, 2015

Mr. Daniel M. Snyder
Owner, Washington R-skins
21300 R-skins Park Drive
Ashburn, VA 20147

Dear Mr. Snyder:

We are longtime fans of the Washington football team. We are also co-founders of a grassroots group, Rebrand Washington Football (RWF), which advocates for a new name that is not offensive and harmful to Native Americans. We understand you want to honor Native Americans. The best way to do this is to change the name of your football team.

Today, we delivered 1,641 petition signatures to your office advocating for a new name. We will keep gathering petitions and increasing support for a new name until you change the name of the team. The founders of RWF represent diverse communities across the metropolitan area and reside in Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Arlington County, and Washington DC. We will bolster the support for a name change in our communities year after year.

In the last couple of years, we have worked with county governments on building support for changing the name. The Montgomery County Executive has declared that the name will not be used in official County communications. Earlier this year, Arlington County passed a resolution asking you to change the name. A few years ago, the District of Columbia led by passing a resolution in favor of a name change.

In the last year, RWF has collaborated with religious organizations to urge a name change. We were gratified by the United Church of Christ's leadership in passing a resolution in favor of changing the team's name. Their resolution eloquently states that "all human beings are created in the image of God. The use of racist imagery is an affront to basic human rights, undermines basic human dignity, and has a negative impact upon self-image, self-awareness, and self-esteem."

Jewish organizations have likewise spoken out against the name. RWF engaged the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), which empowers "Reform Rabbis, and amplifies the voice of the Reform Rabbinate in the Reform Movement, the Jewish community, and the world in which we live." In response to RWF's inquiry, CCAR reiterated its 1992 statement against the name, which found that the name "encouraged stereotypical thinking about Native Americans." CCAR also states that "today is the day for the National Football League franchise in our nation's capital to change its name." The Religious Action Center, the hub of Reform Jewish social justice and legislative activity in Washington, D.C., declares that, "The logo, seemingly



attempting to draw upon the archetype of an Indian warrior, blatantly mocks a culture that struggles to survive. A name associated with a term that divides instead of unites, that causes pain instead of pride, is not a name that should be perpetuated. It is time to close this chapter and begin a new era with a team name that can be celebrated by all.”

We invite you to view a video on our webpage (<http://www.rebrandwf.org>) of a recent forum at Temple Shalom in which a prominent Native American tribal lawyer and sports journalist explain why the name is harmful.

The holiday season is a time of redemption, renewal, and reflection. The holiday season is a celebration of the dignity of all human beings. It would be fitting and glorious if you changed the name during this season. This team has unified the city during its glory years. It is sadly ironic that this institution which has functioned to build multi-racial bridges has a name that demeans the original Americans.

Each year that the name controversy remains is another year in which acrimony and bitterness will intensify and serve to further divide us as a community. Wouldn't it be much better to change the name now and focus on building a great sports franchise?

RWF requests a meeting with you. We will bring fans, Native American leaders, religious leaders, and other community leaders to explore with you how to chart a path to a harmonious future and a non-controversial name. The continued controversy, Mr. Snyder, brings everyone down. What better way to celebrate an inclusive country and metropolitan area than to set a bold example, to shed the current name, and embark on community empowerment projects together.

We look forward to your reply. You can email us on rebrandwf@gmail.com or call us on 240-605-3084.

Sincerely,

Co-Founders

Rebrand Washington Football

Josh Silver, Montgomery County

Sheila Miles, Prince Georges County

Ian Washburn, Arlington County

Bill Mosley, Washington DC