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## REBRAND WASHINGTON FOOTBALL

Dear Congresswoman Norton:

The December 8 [Washington Post](#) reports that District of Columbia officials are working with congressional Republicans and the Trump administration to insert a provision into the must-pass federal spending bill that would assist the Washington professional football team in securing the RFK Stadium site for its new home, short-circuiting public debate over the location of the stadium.

Such an action could not only deprive DC residents a voice in this critical issue; it also would fail to hold the team accountable for its offensive name, which is a dictionary-defined racial slur. In addition, it would represent a failure by D.C. elected officials to live up to their own convictions after the Council passed a resolution in 2013 calling on the team to change its “racist and derogatory” name. You also have publicly called out the name as racist.

Rebrand Washington Football (RWF), a grassroots organization that since 2015 has been pressuring the team to change its name, demands that the DC government live up to its convictions. Instead of conspiring by back channels to relocate the team to the District with no accountability whatsoever, it should declare that it will provide no funding or other assistance to the team until such time as it should adopt a name that is not racially offensive. Otherwise, the Council resolution is not only meaningless but hypocritical as well. In addition, we call on you, the District’s representative in Congress, to fight any legislation to locate the stadium in the District unless the team agrees to a name change.

Contrary to the assertion in the December 8 article, the controversy over the team’s name has not “subsided.” That same day, a delegation of some 30 members of the public, including members of RWF and Native allies, traveled to the team’s headquarters in Ashburn, Va. and [presented its officials with petitions](#) bearing the signatures of 1,800 members of the public demanding that the team change its name. This was the fourth annual delivery of petitions to team headquarters, with over 7,100 people having signed onto the call for a new name.

The controversy has not subsided nationally as well as locally as documented in an [RWF report](#) presented to the team a few days ago. More than 2,000 high schools have deleted logos and mascots with Native American stereotypes. In the last 25 years, 28 high schools have deleted the R-skins name. States have passed legislation eliminating or restricting the use of racially insensitive logos and mascots. The local government must urge Mr. Snyder not to be the last to shed a racist past.



At a time when hate crimes against minorities are on the increase, now is time for all of our elected officials to take a stand against racism in all its manifestations. If you failed to hold the team accountable for its insult to Native Americans, you would become part of the problem rather than the solution.

We call on you now to repudiate any desire to relocate the team to the District unless it changes its name. Justice demands no less.

Sincerely,

Bill Mosley  
Washington, DC

Josh Silver  
Bethesda, MD

Ian Washburn  
Arlington, VA