



February 9, 2017

Dear Councilmember Grosso and other members of the Council:

Rebrand Washington Football (RWF) strongly supports Councilmember Grosso's bill, Washington Area Professional Football Team Franchise Facility Interstate Compact Establishment Act of 2017, to prohibit the use of local taxpayer funds to support and subsidize any stadium for the professional Washington football team. In particular, RWF believes that no public funds should be used while the team continues the use of its racist name, imagery, and mascot.

RWF is a grassroots group composed of fans of the team who advocate for changing the team's name. RWF has delivered thousands of petitions to the Washington football team demanding a name change. We have also worked with elected officials, religious organizations, and civil rights groups.

The name is demeaning. It robs Native Americans of their identity. It is a dictionary defined racial slur that refers to scalping. In our advocacy, we have met Native American parents who struggle with anger and disgust when they try to explain to their children why a team uses stereotypical Native American logos and names. Indeed, the American Psychological Association released findings in 2005 calling for the permanent discontinuance of Native American mascots based on a large body of scientific research concluding that these mascots are harmful.

Last year, the Washington Post conducted a poll purporting to show that the vast majority of Native Americans do not think that the name is offensive. However, the Native Americans living in the DC region that we have met through RWF vigorously oppose the name. The experience of Native Americans living here reinforces one of the biggest flaws of the poll. The poll weighed opinions from respondents who do not have a team with Native American imagery in their area as heavily as respondents who must live with this indignity on a daily basis. Finally, it is not appropriate to poll on an issue that involves basic human or civil rights. Civil rights laws were not enacted based on poll results but on firm convictions that discrimination is immoral.

The voices of Native American youth must be heard. According to the Center for Native American Youth at the Aspen Institute, 64 percent of surveyed Native American youth said that mascots with Native American themes must be retired in order to improve the school climate and learning environment.

Mr. Daniel Snyder, the owner of the team, claims he is honoring Native Americans with the name. However, he has refused to meet with Native Americans and other proponents of the name change who travel to his headquarters each December to deliver petitions against the name. Please view the latest petition delivery on <http://www.rebrandwf.org>. Since Mr. Snyder has rebuffed polite appeals, the pressure of the withdrawal of public support must be applied. RWF therefore strongly supports Councilmember Grosso's bill.



We hope to work with you to change the name so all of us can embrace the team. We can be reached at [rebrandwf@gmail.com](mailto:rebrandwf@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

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Bill Mosley  
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