



March 20, 2012

Oregon Department of Education
255 Capitol Street NE Salem, OR 97310-0203
stateboard.members@state.or.us

RE: The Use of Indian Mascots in Oregon

Dear State Board Members:

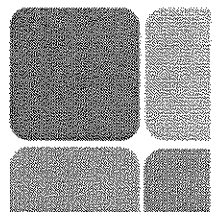
I am writing on behalf of the Coalition of Communities of Color to support a ban of Indian Mascots in Schools that receive State Funding.

Formed in 2001, the Coalition of Communities of Color (CCC) is an alliance of culturally-specific community based organizations in the Portland, Oregon metropolitan area. The CCC has representatives from six communities of color: African, African American, Asian and Pacific Islander, Latino, Native American, and Slavic. The CCC works to advance racial equity through research and education, policy analysis and advocacy, and capacity building.

As an alliance that supports Indian People, the preservation of the rights they reserved through treaties, their civil rights, human rights and rights as citizens of the United States I am asking that you also respect these rights and end the used of Indian Mascots.

- 1) The continued use of American Indian mascots may be a violation of the civil rights of American Indian people.
- 2) Research has shown that the continued use of American Indian mascots, names, symbols, images, and personalities has a negative effect on not only American Indians students but all students by:
 - a. Undermining the educational experiences of members of all communities-especially those who have had little or no contact with Indigenous peoples. The symbols, images and mascots teach non-Indian children that it's acceptable to participate in culturally abusive behavior and perpetuate inaccurate misconceptions about American Indian culture.
 - b. Establishes an unwelcome and often times hostile learning environment for American Indians students that affirms negative images/stereotypes that are promoted in mainstream society.

Please protect Oregon students and provide socially and psychologically safe learning environments for **all students** free of objectification and damaging stereotypes.





Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julia Meier", written in a cursive style.

Julia Meier
Director

