

From the Desk of John Katko

December 23, 2015

Onondaga Nation Council of Chiefs
Onondaga Nation
Nedrow, NY 13120

Dear Council of Chiefs:

I would like to make you aware of the letter that I have sent to Commissioner Roger Goodell of the National Football League. The letter is in regards to the name for the National Football League Team of Washington, D.C.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments regarding the enclosed letter.

Sincerely,



John M. Katko
Member of Congress

Enclosed: Letter to Commissioner Roger Goodell

From the Desk of John Katko

December 22, 2015

Mr. Roger Goodell
Commissioner
National Football League
345 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10154

Dear Commissioner Goodell,

I write to urge that you quickly and clearly endorse a name change for the National Football League Team of Washington, D.C. To millions of people – Native American and Non-Native American alike – this team name represents a hateful, hurtful slur from a bygone era, and the time has come for a change.

A mutual love of sports unites tens of millions of Americans across all regions, ethnic groups, income levels and faiths. However, I believe that the continued use of an ethnic slur as a name for one of the most established teams in the NFL stands in stark contradiction of this unifying tradition, and calls into question the League's values. As a "national" league, the NFL should strive in every way possible to represent all Americans, rather than commercial interests or convenience of a single team.

The National Congress of American Indians, the United South and Eastern Tribes, the President of the United States, and over fifty Senators have all spoken out against the NFL's promotion of a racial slur. As a Member of Congress representing a number of Native American tribes, some of which have raised great concern about this issue, I am proud to join the call for this change.

As Commissioner, you have the opportunity to take a stand and show all Americans that the NFL will not tolerate bigotry or racism in any form. I believe that doing so would ensure that the League is on the right side of history on this issue, and it would serve as a powerful signal that the League desires to represent the interests of all of its millions of fans. I urge you to support the name change of the Washington, D.C. National Football League.

Sincerely,

