

Cassell Kristalyn

From: Pat Ross <ross@molalla.net>
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2013 11:32 AM
To: Cassell Kristalyn
Subject: Re: SB 215 and SB 501 Public Hearing 3/28/2013

[Education and Workforce Development Committee](#)

Re: SB 215 and SB 501

Dear Committee members,

As you are considering the merits of SB 215 and 501, I would like to comment on why I feel that the rules/sanctions that the Oregon State School Board has issued are valid and should not be sidetracked by these bills.

I feel the use of Native American terms of "Indians" and "Braves" etc., for any sports teams with depictions of ferocious mascot icons and characters that are unflattering and many times just degrading are just not reflective of our times and how our society should treat their neighbors. We have enough bullying in our society; we don't need to continue decisions of the past when many team names were changed without consideration of the impact to those whose images were stolen, misused and mischaracterized. Were indian tribes asked for use of their names? I also feel that the published use of the name of any nationality or culture with a degrading mascot should be banned for any public school or institution for which my state and local taxes fund.

The current mascot images for Molalla are not accurate of the native Molalla Indians for which many people think that the team name of Molalla "Indians" honors them. This misleads our students about the real Molalla Indian culture and puts a false image in our youth's memory forever. How can the Federation of Grand Ronde Tribes make a decision to let Molalla use the term "Indian" for their sports teams when they do not own the term "Indian", it is a general term that has been generally accepted to describe all native Americans. I am sure students do not say anything pro mascot ban fearing bullying from other students as is apparently rampant in the Molalla School system. (See copy of letter to editor below)

Even though Facebook comments indicate that the majority of people who live near me in Molalla wish to continue the name of Molalla Indians, they just can't seem to understand why the change is needed. The emancipation proclamation was not held in favor, nor was the civil rights act popular, but they were the right decisions and have become a necessary part of our social behavior. Our local schools have failed to educate students on the hurt that can be caused from disrespect of one's birthright and differences and one never understands until they have never been on the wrong side of a slur. I salute those schools that have already changed their team mascot names recognizing that it was the right thing to do.

Even if you pass this law, it may soon be overcome by the new legal actions that are now working in the federal courts concerning the use of "redskins" for the Washington football team and if won (again) may extend into other federal actions. Oregon needs to be a front leader for much needed change, not be mired in the mud of status quo.

Please don't let these bills go out of committee. Thank you for allowing me to comment on this subject.

Patricia H. Ross, taxpayer, 31728 S. Shady Dell Road, Molalla, OR 97038