

14321 S. Macksburg Road
Molalla, OR 97038
April 1, 2013

Oregon House of Representatives
Attention: Education Committee
State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chairwoman Kotek and Honored Committee Members:

I am unable to attend the committee hearing on Wednesday, April 13, 2013, regarding House Bill 3397. I would like to share the following.

I have lived in Molalla most of my life. I returned here to raise my family. As a child of a teacher/coach/administrator, and the youngest of five children, I spent an incredible amount of time at school. I remember being proud to be a Brave (k-8), and excited to be an Indian (9-12).

Until 1988, when the high school gym burned, there was a mural on the wall of a maiden on a horse led by a brave. It was beautiful, the characters realistic and life-like. It always made me feel connected to the school, town and community.

I know that there were some issues with the images for the mascot that have been corrected.

When others asked about where I grew up, they always asked "were there really Molalla Indians?" Knowing the history of our town, I could always answer, "Yes," and in so doing, keep this tribe alive, remembered and honored.

If we lose our mascot, the memory of this tribe will fade. This mascot keeps this tribe ever and always remembered and renewed with each group of students, and with all they touch as they live their lives. If we have been remiss or wrong in portrayals, educate us, communicate with us. This a strong, proud, symbol of a people. The attributes of strength, pride, unity, endurance and honor are something we should all seek to attain.

In this community, this mascot truly represents our area, heritage and community history. To lose our mascot is to lose a great part of our area's history. My children are proud to be Molalla Indians. We often talk about how and where the Molalla lived in our area. I would like to keep the "Molalla Indians" alive and present in our hearts, minds and community.

Sincerely,



Beth A. Fox-Nunn
Molalla Union High School
Class of 1988