

**From:** [bonney1@molalla.net](mailto:bonney1@molalla.net) [bonney1@molalla.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 27, 2013 8:32 AM  
**To:** Berkobien Rick  
**Subject:** Native American Mascots

May 26, 2013 House Education Committee  
Oregon House of Representatives  
Salem, Oregon 97301  
Re: Vote to Pass SB 215 – Native American Mascot Bill

Dear Representative  Rick Derkobien \_\_\_\_\_:

It's important that your committee not let SB 215 die, but immediately pass it out to a vote of the full House. SB 215 passed overwhelmingly in the Senate in early April, and would allow Native American tribes in Oregon to make decisions about whether it's offensive for schools to have names like "Indians," "Braves" and "Chiefs."

However justified that members of the State Board of Education may have thought they were in banning these words, their action served to perpetuate centuries of official government oppression of Native American peoples. The Board's action used the governmental constructs of the European-descended majority to once again tell Native Americans that only the Europeans' government can and should decide what's best for Native Americans.

The Board of Education thought it found overwhelming support for its ban, even among Native Americans. The reality is that support for the ban came, and continues to come, almost entirely from a very vocal minority of far-left extremists. You can see that reflected in the Senate vote (24-4), where the only votes against the bill came from a tiny faction of big city Senators with far-left constituencies. Other Senators, both Democrats and Republicans alike, used their votes to say that Native Americans should be the ones to decide this issue.

The majority of Oregonians believe that the Board of Education's ban is wrong for a wide variety of reasons. The ironic truth is that a huge number of Native Americans in Oregon and around the United States share that belief. Among people previously testifying in support of SB 215, and other bills like it, have been members of tribes and tribal governments from Oregon and beyond.

Please support our schools and our Native American peoples, and vote "YES" to refer SB 215 to a vote of the full House.

Very Respectfully,

Bonney Crawford  
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