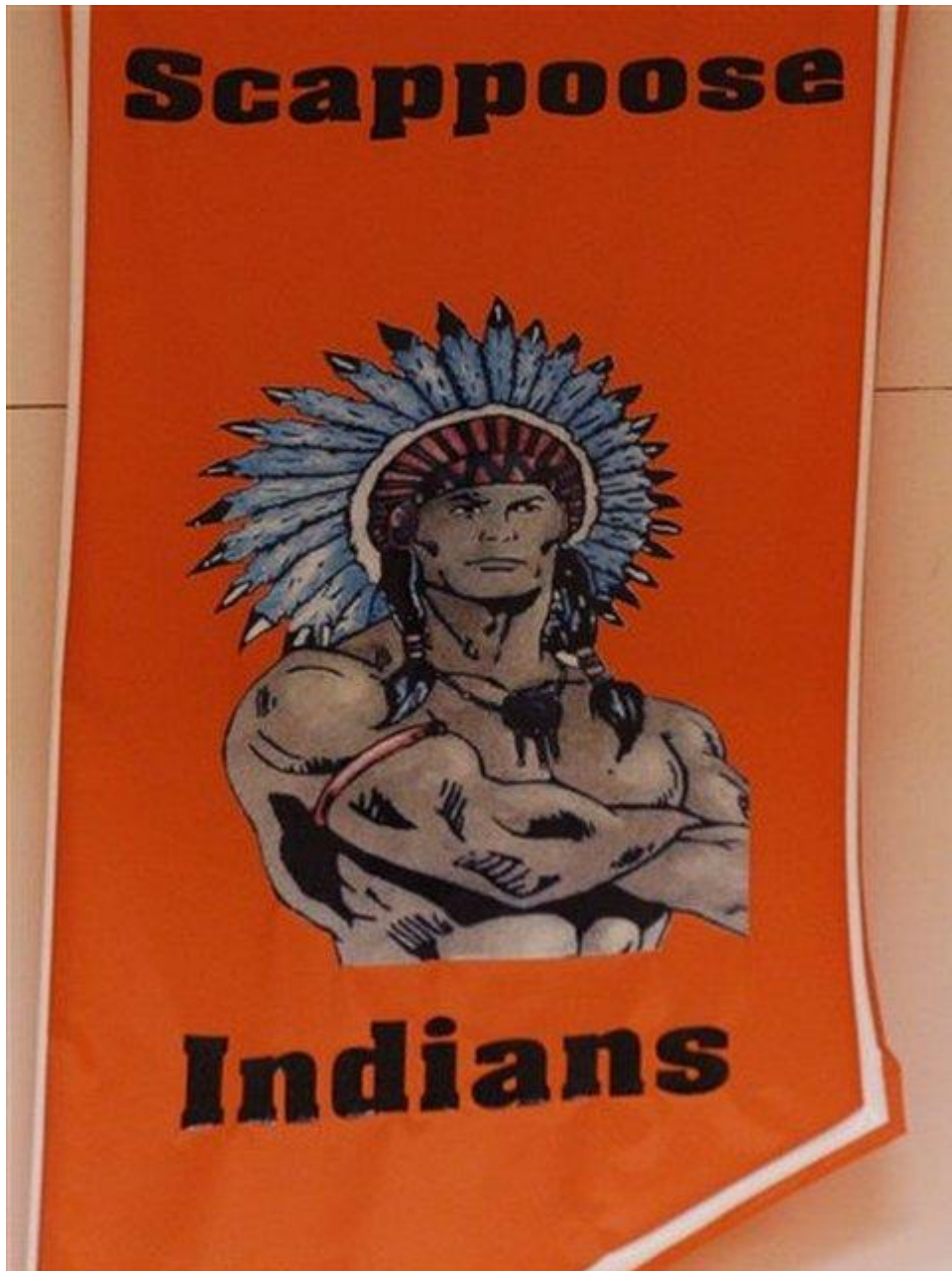


June 6, 2013

Dear House Rules Committee,

As a further example of the jurisdictional nightmare you will create if you, per SB 215, allow one “local” Tribe to decide whether or not an “Indian” mascot is acceptable in our public schools, please consider the following information and links.

Scappoose High School’s stereotype is a historically incorrect clip art muscle man “Indian” in a war bonnet; they call themselves the “Scappoose Indians”.



Scappoose was a Chinook area and the name “Scappoose” means “gravelly plains. There was no tribe named the “Scappoose Indians” (links below).

In Oregon, some Chinook descendants are in incorporated Tribes. However, there is a long standing and well organized push by the Chinook Tribes to be federally recognized via the Chinook Nation Restoration Act:

http://www.oregonlive.com/clark-county/index.ssf/2012/11/chinook_tribe_pushes_for_recog.html

Recognized or not, the Chinook Tribes have a formal presence, a website, a Council and cultural activities, including an upcoming gathering to canoe the lower Columbia River:

<http://www.native-net.org/tribes/chinook-indians.html>

http://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/index.ssf/2013/06/chinook_tribes_plan_traditiona.html#incart_river

The Chinook Tribes, recognized or not, certainly have as much, and likely far more, claim to the heritage of the Scappoose Oregon territory as any Confederated Tribe in Oregon. This diffused representation is yet another example of how unfair and impossible it would be to allow one Tribal Council to approve an “Indian’ mascot image when Tribal jurisdictions/ representations are this uncertain.

In fact, to draw lines and claim any one of the contrived “Confederated Tribes” has sole ownership of any physical territory is a white European imposition. Indigenous peoples in America and the world never had the strict boundaries – the survey lines and government jurisdictions – that were imposed upon them as Europeans stole their lands and suppressed their cultures. SB 215 attempts to contrive and impose yet another artificial jurisdiction upon Native Americans.

SB 215 represents bargaining to find an acceptable level of racism and there is no acceptable level of racism we can tolerate in our 21st Century public schools.

NO on SB 215! There are no hard and fast lines that can be drawn that allow any single “Confederated Tribe” to speak for all the diverse Native American cultures and Tribal affiliations about whether a cultural symbol is discriminatory or not.

Links to history of the Chinook peoples:

<http://www.native-net.org/tribes/chinook-indians.html>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chief_Comcomly

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinook_people

Scappoose History

“Once covered by an Ice Age Ocean. Then home to the Diersinno (Keeassino) Indian tribe led by Chief Cassino. Then became the meeting grounds for all the Northwest Indians who gathered each year to hold their contests of skill, gaming, feasts, trading and tribe Pow Wows. This Tribe was a member of the Chinook Indian Tribes headed by Chief Concomley. The Indians named the area Scappoose, meaning gravelly plains.”

NO ON SB 215! No RACIST STEREOTYPING in Oregon public schools!

Sincerely,

Susan Hansen
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