

Dear Rules Committee Chair and Committee members,

As this bill has now surfaced in the Rules Agenda, I would like to comment in opposition to this bill.

I feel that the ban on Native American mascots that the Oregon State School Board has issued is valid and should not be sidetracked by this bill.

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 mis-characterized.

I do not believe that one local tribe should be allowed to approve any school mascot name or partial name that would describe other Native Americans., i.e, Indians, Braves, Squaws, whether positive or negative. If this bill is approved, can one Tribe approve the use of an image of another tribe? How can schools maintain their neutrality if they are using a mascot of a local tribe and a student of another tribe attends school there? Will he/she be bullied if he does not accept the mascot? Does this bill interfere with the equality of opportunity in education (civil rights) of all Indian Children who attend school in Oregon, even those who are not descended from Tribes in Oregon?