

Sadie Camacho
503 Fred Taylor Rd.
Siletz, OR 97380

Gov. John Kitzhaber
900 Court St. N.E. Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301

To The Honorable John Kitzhaber:

My name is Sadie Camacho and I am writing this letter with great sadness in my heart. I am a member of the Siletz Tribe and attend Siletz Valley Early College Academy as a sophomore. I have great pride in my school as well as my tribe. Siletz has been identified with the "Warrior" for many years. The Indian chief-head has been our logo for generations and to our great dismay the chief-head was removed from our walls and gym floor. We would like to communicate with you our disappointment with the hope that you consider reversing your decision.

Over half of the students enrolled at our school are Siletz Tribal students. We are proud of our chief-head logo. It represents who we are as a school. We have pow-wows in our school as well as culture classes to teach us about our heritage. Many of our students participate in Run to the Rogue, which is the annual event commemorating the "trail of tears" the removal of our ancestors from the Rogue to the Umpqua valleys over 150 years.

As I have spoken with many of my fellow students, many of whom are non-tribal or from other tribes, as well as tribal members in the community, I have found the shared beliefs that the chief-head stands for courage, bravery, loyalty, pride, determination, and reverence. Our Warrior logo is a dignified representation of our native people. We have pride in our Warrior logo and we would appreciate being able to continue to use our Warrior logo (chief-head), as it has always been and will continue to be a source of pride for future generations.

I understand that throughout history native people have been misunderstood to a large extent. Recently, it has come to light that some schools may have used native logos and mascots inappropriately. However, I feel that with education and a better understanding of our culture, those schools may be able to change or remove the inappropriate use of native logos and mascots.

With this letter you will find attached signatures of students and community members supporting our request to keep our "Warrior" logo that we feel is a true representation of our school and community. Therefore, I ask you to reconsider your decision. If there are steps we can take as a community and school to assist in the matter, please let me know. On behalf of Siletz Valley School and Siletz community and tribal members, I thank you.

Sincerely,


Sadie Camacho