

February 11, 2014

Education and Workforce Development Committee  
Oregon State Senate  
Salem, Oregon

Dear Mr. Chairman & Committee Members:

My name is Craig Loughridge of Mulino, Oregon. I am on the Molalla River School District Board of Directors. My wife and children have Cherokee Indian ancestry, though they are not members of any tribe.

I previously submitted documentation to the committee regarding SB 1509 that proves that Native Americans themselves do, in fact, support and use the words "Braves" and "Indians" for their own sports teams, despite the claims of an earlier speaker. These Native American sports teams also use the Indian head in profile as their team image, just the same way that Molalla High School does. One of those Native American teams is right here in Salem, at Chemawa Indian School, where their athletes call themselves "Braves" and "Lady Braves."

In regards to Mr. Kruse's question earlier about the anti-mascot studies, I have read all those studies, and in great detail. I also looked carefully at the methodology and at the sources of the studies, and found that every study cited specifically by the opponents of this bill lacked adequate scientific methodology and was conducted by persons who had a pre-determined bias to eliminate Native-American-related names and images from sports. This especially includes the "study" by Dr. Stephanie Fryberg, which mascot opponents so often cite.

I'm not going to argue the merits of SB 1509. You all have heard the various arguments on both sides before. Senators and House members already recognized that this bill was the right thing to do when they overwhelmingly agreed on the exact same language in last year's regular session. They knew it was the right thing to do then, and it's still the right thing to do now.

Unfortunately, the legislature last year allowed one man to hijack the democratic process, and completely undo the will of the vast majority of legislators and Oregonians.

Our school board has voted to support the language of this bill.

I urge you to refer this bill to the floor with a "Do Pass" recommendation, either with or without the "dash one" amendments. And, if the governor chooses to veto the bill again, I would hope and encourage the members of this body to have the courage and intestinal fortitude this time to override his veto, and send him a message that they will no longer allow him to abuse the democratic process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Craig Loughridge". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Craig Loughridge

## Information about the Oregon Indian Education Association

A primary opponent of Native-American-related names and mascots is the Oregon Indian Education Association, which is an Oregon-registered non-profit group. Like the National Indian Education Association, OIEA appears to be as much a political advocacy group as an education group.

Founded in the 1970s, among top priorities the OIEA has listed on its web site is advocacy. Many goals that OIEA and NIEA have published for themselves are political in nature (e.g., tribal control of education, eliminating Native American mascots, demanding tribal consultation on data collection, reducing local control and decision-making of public school boards in policy and curriculum, etc.).

OIEA's web site has claimed that "The vision shared by OIEA's board members is to create collaborations with school districts...." However, rather than contacting school districts to "collaborate," the group has avoided collaboration, and instead instituted a program of lobbying left-wing state appointees and left-wing advocacy groups to pressure state institutions to force local agencies to meet OIEA aims.

While OIEA and NIEA say they seek eliminating all Indian mascots, their efforts have overlooked schools with such mascots when those schools primarily or exclusively serve Native Americans, such as:

## Mascots and Symbols at American Indian Schools



St. Labre is a private Catholic school founded in 1884 as a mission to help displaced natives in the Montana region.

**Mission today:** "...providing quality education which celebrates our Catholic faith and embraces Native American cultures, primarily the Northern Cheyenne and Crow Tribes, so that Native American Individuals and communities of Southeastern Montana are empowered to attain self-sufficiency."

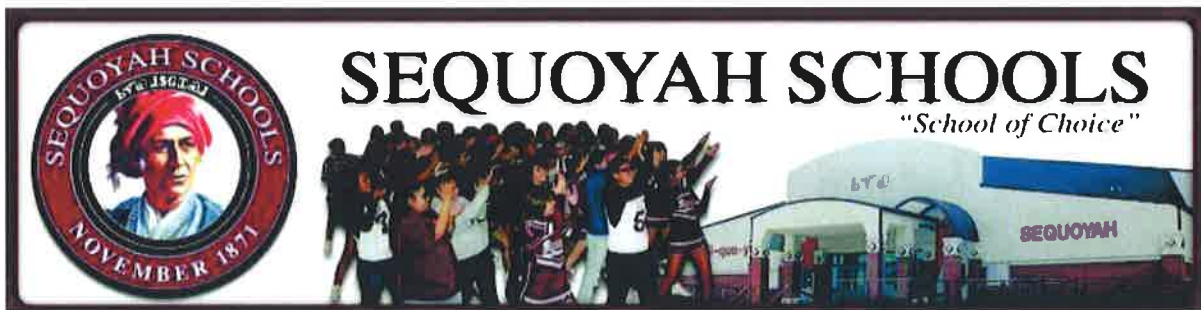


## Marty Indian School

“Home of the Braves”

Marty Indian School is owned and operated by the Yankton Sioux Tribe, and is on the tribe’s reservation in southeastern South Dakota.

**Mission today:** “...offer a safe, supportive environment, to provide intellectual, social and cultural values needed to prepare our students for a multi-cultural circle of life; and to instill self-discipline and respect for self and others.



Sequoyah Schools is “an Indian boarding school” comprised of middle and high schools operated by the Cherokee Nation in Tahlequah, Okla. The “mascot” is the legendary silversmith Sequoyah, who developed the written syllabary for the Cherokee language in the early 1800s. The school’s athletes are referred to as “Indians” (for boys), and “Lady Indians” (for girls).

**Mission today:** “Sequoyah’s mission is to enable students to meet the challenges of their futures both academically and socially.”



A private Catholic school to help impoverished Native Americans in South Dakota. Founded in 1927, it refers today to the people it serves as both Native Americans and as Indians.

**Mission today:** “...partners with Native American children and families to educate for life mind, body, heart and spirit.”

Also: “...helping Native American children in need to regain pride in the Lakota (Sioux) culture by learning the Lakota language, studying Native American culture and healing the broken family circle from which they come.”



Home of the "Braves" and "Lady Braves," Chemawa Indian School in Salem, Oregon, is the oldest, continuously operated boarding school for Native American students in the United States. "Its highest goal has always been to educate Native American students for the world outside." Funded by the federal government, the school has a five-person board of directors consisting of members of federally-recognized Native American tribes from reservations throughout the western United States.

**Mission today:** "...to maintain the highest academic standards and foster excellent educational opportunities for American Indians and Alaska Natives."

***Contrast the names and mascots at the above Native American schools with the name and mascot at one of Oregon's public high schools (next page):***

## Molalla High School's Team Name and Symbol



Molalla High School is a public school in Molalla, Oregon, named for the community's original inhabitants, who were members of the Molalla tribe of American Indians. The Molalla people are now one of the five officially recognized bands of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

**MHS Mission today:** "...to develop powerful and confident adults who are controlling their own destiny and influencing their worlds."

### Molalla High School Demography:

Race	Percent	
<i>White</i>	74.4	
<i>Non-White</i>	25.6	
	<i>Hispanic</i>	18.1
	<i>Multi-Racial</i>	4.7
	<i>Asian</i>	1.4
	<i>Native American</i>	1.0
	<i>Black</i>	0.5

Socio-Economic Status	Percent
Eligible for Free Lunch	38.6
Eligible for Reduced-Price Lunch	9.0
Total Free/Reduced Lunch	47.6

Source: Oregon Department of Education, 2012-13 school year.