

WHEREAS, California has the highest Native American population in the country with over 700,000 people who identify themselves as Native American, and 109 federally recognized Indian tribes.

WHEREAS, The name used by the Washington, D.C. National Football League (NFL) team is ~~widely recognized as~~ ***believed by some to be*** a racial slur and ***to*** promotes discrimination against Native Americans.

WHEREAS, “Indian” sports brands used by professional teams were born in an era when racism and bigotry were deemed acceptable. ~~These brands, which have grown to become multi-million dollar franchises, were established at a time when the practice of employing racial epithets and slurs as marketing slogans was commonly used to capitalize on cultural superiority and racial tensions.~~

WHEREAS, 50 United States Senators joined together to send a letter to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell demanding that, “It’s time for the NFL to endorse a name change for the Washington, D.C. football team.”

WHEREAS, Dozens of groups representing millions of Americans have asked NFL players to take a stand against the Washington, D.C. NFL team’s use of the derogatory R-word.

WHEREAS, On June 18, 2014, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) canceled the Washington, D.C. NFL team’s federal trademark registration of the name “Washington R_____.” The USPTO ruling deemed the term “disparaging to Native Americans,” and canceled the trademark status of the name. Unless the Washington, D.C. NFL team successfully appeals, the USPTO ruling would mean that the team has no legal ownership over the term; and

WHEREAS, Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle, city councils, top sports icons, civil rights groups, religious groups, prominent journalists, and President Obama have all spoken out against the team’s continued use of the epithet.

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature urges the National Football League (NFL) to join The National Congress of American Indians, and other organizations, which represent more than 2 million Native Americans across the country and more than 300 tribes in the United States, in calling for a name change for the Washington, D.C. NFL team; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature calls upon the owners of NFL teams based in California to urge the Washington, D.C. NFL team owner Dan Snyder and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell to adhere to the wishes of the millions of people who have joined Indian Country in urging that they change the team mascot; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.