



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

RESOLUTION #SPO-01-046

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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TREASURER
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St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

Title: Opposition to the University of North Dakota's Use of the Fighting Sioux Name and Logo

WHEREAS, we, the members of the National Congress of American Indians in our own distinct territories, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants the inherent sovereign rights of our Indian nations, rights secured under Indian treaties and agreements with the United States, and all other rights and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the health, safety and welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution; and

WHEREAS, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was established in 1944 and is the oldest and largest national organization of American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the use of an American Indian stereotype is demeaning by its very nature, whether intended as such or not; and

WHEREAS, these stereotypical symbols create an environment in which degrading acts become more acceptable and promote practices that trivialize and demean Native American culture, traditions and spirituality; and

WHEREAS, the United States Commission on Civil Rights calls for an end to the use of Native American images and team names by non-Native schools acknowledging that such names and logos when promoted by public educational institutions, teach all students that stereotyping of minority groups is acceptable; and

WHEREAS, this is an issue of human rights because the use of such a name and symbol at the University of North Dakota limits the ability of all Native students to learn and take part in campus and community activities; and

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WHEREAS, the President of St.Cloud University, Roy Saigo, has expressed his full support for this work and will make a presentation to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the Minnesota State College and University Board (MSCUB) on how the mascot violates student rights and creates a hostile environment; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Indian Education Association and the North Dakota Indian Education Association have both passed resolutions opposing the continuation of the "Fighting Sioux" mascot.

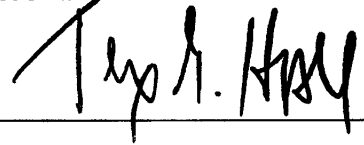
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCAI does hereby support this resolution in response to ending the use of outdated and politically incorrect American Indian stereotypes at the University of North Dakota and all across America that demean the history and culture of Indian nations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NCAI supports the aforementioned request to end the University of North Dakota's use of the "Fighting Sioux" name and its accompanying "Indian-head" symbol; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NCAI does hereby support this resolution in response to end the national use of stereotypical images that demean, rather than honor American Indian nations.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 58th Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Spokane Convention Center, in Spokane, Washington on November 25-30, 2001 with a quorum present.



Tex Hall, President

ATTEST:



Colleen F. Cawston, Recording Secretary

Adopted by the General Assembly during the 58th Annual Session of the National Congress of American Indians, held at the Spokane Convention Center, in Spokane, Washington on November 25-30, 2001.