



“EDUCATE NOT ERADICATE”

Native American Guardian's Association
PO Box 742
Devils Lake, ND 58301 - 0742

12-21-24

Dear Senator Moreno,

We are the Native American Guardian's Association, representing the 90 percent (documented via multiple professional polls) of American Indians who have no problem with or support the respectful use of our names and imagery in sports and the mainstream. We write seeking your assistance in a campaign to return the respectful Indians nickname back to the Cleveland MLB team. The unfortunate and unhinged environment of the 2020 George Floyd, BLM, cancel culture insanity directly led to the removal of the most iconic sports brands, namely the Washington Redskins and Cleveland Indians. The political ideology behind such unprecedented erasures is decidedly propagated by anti-American, leftists led by mostly whites in academia supported by their radical activists allies intent on tearing down our great American institutions, traditions, and icons. The overwhelming majority of Americans to include Native Americans do NOT harbor this vengeful hatred. NAGA was formed in 2014 to be the voice of the “silenced majority” of NON ACTIVIST Native people who stand against this divisive cancel culture cancer.

In 2017 our organization sent a letter to the president of the Cleveland Indians offering our assistance. Then again in 2020 we sent a letter to the team requesting a meeting with upper level management and ownership. We received only a zoom meeting with 3 very low level, woke millennials. Conversely, Paul Dolan consulted directly with the National Congress of American Indians, a far left group funded by George Soros. He additionally sought direction from the American Indian Movement of Ohio, a group known for their radicalism and with a history of violence highlighted by their hostile takeover of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1972. Reports also reveal Dolan met with local civic groups, translated, far left political activists. Cancel culture is decidedly parse and parcel of the Democrat party as further evidenced by a 2014 letter signed by all 50 Democrat Senators asking the Washington Redskins to change their name. It is unconscionable that a professed red state republican would bend his knee to the enemies of proud American traditions, not to mention nearly the entire Indians fanbase.

In a 2021 Cleveland.com article, Dolan is quoted as saying, “ the Indians were in a different situation than the Braves. They had no large Native American group to bond with and, perhaps, support them when it came to keeping the name.” The article went on further to say that in doing their research concerning the name change, they talked to the Lake Erie Native American council and the National Congress of American Indians. To be perfectly clear, NAGA made two formal written requests to support them in keeping the iconic Indians name and imagery.

This is all a record of the past. The future is one of a return to common sense and majority rule as witnessed by the recent landslide red wave election which saw Native Americans

voting for President Trump by margins of 65 percent. Senator Daines of Montana has forced the Washington Commanders into an almost certain return of the iconic profile Indian logo. We are seeking a similar commitment from all Republican Senators to sign a letter demanding Paul Dolan return the Indians name. Not only is NAGA on board to support them in this effort, but so is a regional tribe with deep historic roots to Ohio. NAGA was instrumental in helping forge the tremendous partnership between the Miami Tribe of Indiana and the Indianapolis Indians minor league baseball team.

The exemption to maintain a Native theme as constructed by the political left is to partner with a tribal nation. This is evidenced by K-12 schools at the state level whereby ONLY blue states have passed unconstitutional laws prohibiting public schools from using a Native theme unless backed by a tribe. The same is true at the collegiate level whereby the NCAA carved out an exemption for Native themed member schools to keep them if sponsored by a namesake tribe, most notably achieved by the Utah Utes and Florida State Seminoles. Although not mandated by semi professional or professional leagues, all Native themed teams have tribal support. This includes the minor league Spokane Indians (Spokane Tribe) and Indianapolis Indians (Miami Tribe), the Atlanta Braves (Eastern Band Cherokee Nation), Chicago Blackhawks (Sac and Fox Nation), and the Kansas City Chiefs (working group of regional tribes).

The negative path Paul Dolan chose benefits the Native American community in NO way and has left the fan base devastated as is the constant in all such instances of Indian removal as evidenced by the Fighting Sioux, Fighting Illini, Redskins, and an untold number of public K-12 schools. The positive path supported by a 90 percent super majority of rank and file Native Americans and an even higher percentage of the loyal fans is partnership with a tribal nation as a means to remember and educate about our heritage. We are asking for your assistance in arranging a meeting between Paul Dolan and NAGA as well as our potential partner tribe to hopefully achieve these positive ends. It is never too late to do the right thing. Paul Dolan stands as a single individual financially invested in the team, but it is the myriad of fans who are emotionally invested. Now is the time to do right by them backed by the overwhelming majority of Native Americans.

Sincerely,
Tony Henson
President