

United Tribes of Michigan

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Frank Ettawageshik, Executive Director

RESOLUTION # 051 20170511

United Tribes of Michigan condemns the use of the term “redskins” by any Michigan educational institution, or any other educational institution or sports team, as any component of their sports mascot, name, or symbol; and UTM supports the Michigan State Board of Education authority to discipline any Michigan school that uses race-based sports names and associated imagery and activities in a manner harmful to Native American students.

WHEREAS, the membership of United Tribes of Michigan (UTM) is open to all of the twelve federally recognized tribes located in Michigan; and,

WHEREAS, the organization provides a forum for the Tribes in Michigan to address issues of common concern and is committed to join forces to advance, protect, preserve and enhance the mutual interests, treaty rights, sovereignty, and cultural way of life of the sovereign Indian Tribes of Michigan throughout the next seven generations; and,

WHEREAS, the inherent sovereign rights of Tribal governments are advanced within their respective Constitutions and Laws, are supported within provisions of the Constitution of the United States, and recognized within the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and subsequent international actions; and,

WHEREAS, UTM accepts the mission to engage, as a matter of mutual concern, issues that impact the health, security, safety, and general welfare of Native Americans; and,

WHEREAS, the derogatory term “redskins” degrades and diminishes Native people throughout the history of the United States as documented in study after study and related by personal experiences of Native people in Indian Country and beyond. The negative effects on our children and our Native communities are long-lasting and detrimental to the positive self-esteem necessary to maintain the high quality of life that is the goal of thoughtful people everywhere; and,

WHEREAS, Native Americans are the only minority-status race of people in the United States used as sports team mascots; and,

WHEREAS educational awareness and outreach are implemented to educate the communities about Native American culture, ensuring an opportunity for Native Americans to be seen in a safe,

culturally appropriate manner, and helping to eliminate stereotypical views by creating an atmosphere free from hostility, intimidation and bullying in reference to race to promote a healthy environment for all individuals; and,

WHEREAS, Native American students are entitled to an educational environment that is not hostile - but is conducive to equal attainment of educational goals as with all other students; and,

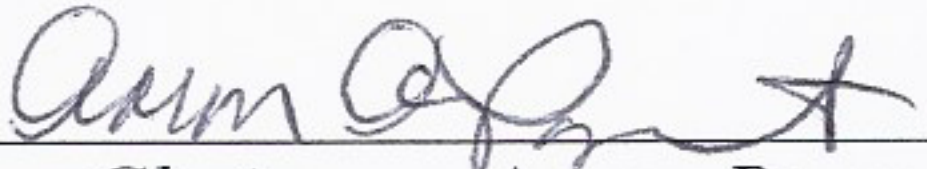
WHEREAS, the protection of the wellbeing of Native American children is a high priority for UTM, including prevention of discrimination in schools that Native children attend.

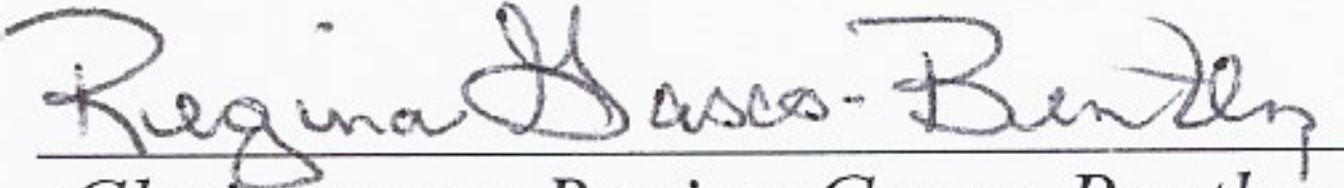
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United Tribes of Michigan condemns the use of the term **“redskins”** by any Michigan educational institution, or any other educational institution or sports team, as any component of their sports mascot, name, or symbol; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United Tribes of Michigan fully supports the Michigan State Board of Education in exercising authority to impose financial sanctions against any Michigan educational institution using the term **“redskins”** or any other race-based sports team names, mascots, images, logos, antics, song lyrics or other displays in a manner deemed by Native American complainants as racially or culturally offensive; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this position of the United Tribes of Michigan will remain in effect until which time it is replaced or repealed.

Adopted by a vote of 9 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining, at a meeting of the United Tribes of Michigan held on May 11, 2017 at Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan.


Chairman Aaron Payment
UTM President


Chairperson Regina Gasco Bentley
UTM Secretary