

Tulare Joint Union High School District

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August 19, 2015

The Honorable Jerry Brown
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

California State Legislature
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 30

Dear Honorable Governor and Legislators:

I am writing on behalf of Assembly Bill 30, (Alejo), known as the California Racial Mascots Act that would prohibit schools from using the term Redskins as a school or athletic team name, mascot, or nickname beginning January 1, 2017. The bill would also provide that this prohibition may not be waived by the State Board of Education. The bill would impose a state-mandated local program, of which the California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school district for certain costs mandated the state.

Tulare Union High School has had the Redskin as its Mascot since 1924 and has had the full support of its student, community members, and local Native American tribe members. It has sought out the input of local Native American tribe members to ensure that there is agreement that the depictions, images and use of the word Redskins is one of pride and respect and is acceptable to our community.

If you will not allow local communities to use local control and decision-making authority to decide what is best for their communities, then at least consider the negative economic impact you would be imposing on Tulare Joint Union High School District if we are forced to remove the name, "Redskins" from all facilities, monikers, statues, windows, and uniforms. If AB 30 becomes law the preliminary estimates of negative financial impact is well over \$700,000, as indicated below.

- Redskin Painting on building facing Tulare Avenue - \$3,000
- Gym Floor, Walls and Redskin of the Year Awards - \$200,000 (requires complete sand-down)
- Auditorium says "Home of the Redskins" - \$400 (to replace only "Redskins")
- Statue in Pride Park - \$2,500
- Statue in Main Hall - \$4,000
- Mosaic in Auditorium Main Hall - \$2,500
- Stained glass window in front entrance of auditorium - \$1,500
- Cafeteria Sign - \$800
- Mural on Jones Building - \$2,500
- Statue in Front of School - \$1,500
- Digital Sign on Back of Gym - \$1,500
- Band Trailers - \$3,000
- BBQ Trailer - \$500
- Uniforms for Athletics, Band, Cheer - \$500,000

Total Cost - \$723,700

With the advent of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) which includes stakeholder input, there is no community or stakeholder support for changing the Tulare Union High School Redskins name. Nor is there any money allocated in the budget to do so. The district's LCAP contains many educational goals that meet the state's eight priority areas. Three quarters of a million dollars, the minimum amount to needed to change the mascot name, should be spent on our students and in support of the LCAP, as intended by the Governor, not on changing the name of the Tulare Union High School mascot.

We respectfully request that the Senate Appropriations Committee seriously consider the negative financial impact to Tulare Joint Union High School District and ensure that the language in AB 30 regarding reimbursement for mandated costs is fulfilled as written.

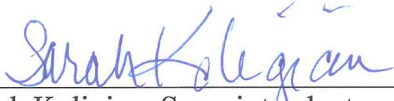
Assembly Bill 30 (Alejo) SECTION 1. Article 3.5. The California Racial Mascots Act

221.3. (c) SEC.2. If the Commission of State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school district for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

In closing, I want to reiterate that we have the support from our local Native American tribes, the Yokut and Tule Indians from the Tulare River Indian Reservation, Santa Rosa Rancheria. Lakota Elder, Cordelia Swan Mills, has provided a written letter in support of Tulare Union High School's use of the Redskins mascot. (See attached letter). Also, included is a letter from the Tulare City Council representing the community's support of local control on this issue.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to a positive response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Koligian". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Dr. Sarah Koligian, Superintendent

CC: Board Members, Tulare Joint Union High School District
Michelle Nunley, Tulare Union High School, Principal
Mark Hatton, Tulare Union High School, ASB Advisor
Pete VanderPoel, Tulare County Board of Supervisors
Mike Spata, Tulare County Resource Management Agency, Director
Cordelia Swan Mills, Lakota Elder
David Macedo, City of Tulare, Mayor
Laura Preston, ACSA Governmental Relations
Erika Hoffman, CSBA Governmental Relations
Jeff Frost, Donnelly & Frost, Central Valley Education Coalition

Governor Jerry Brown
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, Ca., 95814

February 5, 2015

Dear Governor Brown,

In 2004, the native communities of Tulare County, The Tule River Indian Reservation, Santa Rosa Rancheria, in Kings County wrote Governor Schwarzenegger to veto a measure about the name Redskin at Tulare Union High School. We ask for your veto of AB 30, by Luis Alejo, D-Watsonville. This name became an issue for those outside of our community of Tulare; Ca. 93274 It is still our opinion that we the tribes of our communities are not offended by the symbolism of our nations at Tulare Union High School. Each graduating class has used the teaching tools of our nations by leaving a positive legacy for future generations. Excellent art work is displayed in the courtyard, statue of Chief Seattle and a short excerpt of his speech to leadership of America. Inside the administration building, one that I admire is a carving of a grandmother with a grandchild by Jim Hitchcock, from the Cherokee nation. In my tribe (Lakota) and in my time, grandparents were responsible for teaching life skills, passing on our legends, history and mores of our nations. Many times I have found comfort from the mural of our native leadership on one of the buildings of the school on Tulare Avenue. On one visit to the school, an elder, Jenny Garfield from the Tule River Reservation, in tears, told the students of Mr. Kent McNatt's American History class never to be ashamed to be called a Redskin. Raymond Jeff from Santa Rosa Rancheria, Lemoore shared history of early days for the California Indian. We were given an opportunity to share with students and staff events not in the history books. Jenny ended our visit to the school that day with our Friendship dance. We are a majority who are offended that the opinion of those who feel they can speak for all are imposing their embarrassment of color on us who grew up with the pride of being Red, a warrior, as only we can be. We will address any issues that infringes on our dignity as indigenous nations in our community. Tulare Union High School consciously displays a positive image of our nations for our community.

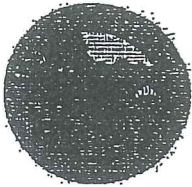
In His Circle,

Cordelia Swan Mills, Lakota Elder

City of Tulare City Council

411 East Kern Avenue, Tulare, California 93274 ☎ AGRI-CENTER OF THE WORLD ☎ Tel: (559) 684-4200 Fax: (559) 366-1701

May 8, 2015



David Macedo
Mayor

Via Facsimile (916) 319-2170
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell (Chair)
P.O. Box 942849
Room 4166
Sacramento, CA 94249-0070

RE: Assembly Bill 30, Racial Mascots Act

Carlton Jones
Vice Mayor

Dear Assembly Member O'Donnell,

Maritsa Castellanoz
Councilmember

On behalf of the City of Tulare we write this letter to express support for the Tulare Joint Union High School District's right to local control, especially as it relates to Assembly Bill 30, The Racial Mascots Act. As a local municipality we are acutely aware of the importance of social issues, such as this and strongly believe that the concept of local control should apply with regard to this matter. The Community of Tulare and the leaders who are elected by the voting public to administer the institutions that serve the community are more than capable of considering the issue and making decisions that are in the best interests of the Community.

Shea Gowin
Councilmember

At no time in the nearly 125 years that Tulare Union High School has proudly displayed the Redskin mascot has any disparaging or derogatory use of the Redskin moniker taken place. The respect that the community and the School District have for Native Americans is clear and well documented. We believe that allowing the local control process to play out is the most appropriate way to address this matter. For those reasons we urge you and your fellow Committee members to seriously consider rejecting AB 30 and allow the Tulare Joint Union High School District to address this matter as they see fit at a local level.

Craig Vejvoda
Councilmember

We appreciate your careful consideration of this matter and should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

David Macedo, Mayor

Carlton Jones, Vice Mayor

Shea Gowin, Council Member

Maritsa Castellanoz, Council Member

Craig Vejvoda, Council Member

cc: Assembly Member Alejo (916) 319-2130; Assembly Member Mathis (916)-319-2126; TJUHSD Superintendent (559) 687-7317

MISSION STATEMENT

To promote a quality of life making Tulare the most desirable community in which to live, learn, play, work, worship and prosper.