

April 5, 2013

Daniel Snyder  
Owner  
Washington XXXSkins Football Team  
21300 XXXSkins Park Drive  
Ashburn, VA 20147

Dear Mr. Snyder:

We are writing as longtime participants in the FCC regulatory process to respectfully encourage you to change the archaic and racially stereotyped name of the Washington XXXskins football team.

It is impermissible under law that the FCC would condone, or that broadcasters would use, obscene pornographic language on live television. This medium uses government owned airwaves in exchange for an understanding that it will promote the public interest. Similarly, it is inappropriate for broadcasters to use racial epithets as part of normal, everyday reporting. Thankfully, one does not hear the "n" word on nightly newscasts. Yet, doubtlessly because long habit has bred unawareness, as opposed to some conscious act of insult, it is routine for broadcasters to use "XXXskins" in normal, everyday reporting. In this context, we ask you to help broadcasters and the public achieve a higher consciousness by leading the name change.

"XXXskin" is the most derogatory name a Native American can be called. It is an unequivocal racial slur. As the Washington Post's Mike Wise pointed out, "America wouldn't stand for a team called the Blackskins — or the Mandingos, the Brothers, the Yellowskins, insert your ethnic minority here." [http://m.washingtonpost.com/sports/redskins/redskins-name-goes-before-federal-trademark-board-but-for-this-writer-theres-no-debate/2013/03/10/6e64c508-8906-11e2-9d71-f0feafdd1394\\_story.html](http://m.washingtonpost.com/sports/redskins/redskins-name-goes-before-federal-trademark-board-but-for-this-writer-theres-no-debate/2013/03/10/6e64c508-8906-11e2-9d71-f0feafdd1394_story.html).

The demeaning characterization of a "XXXskin" originated from the blood shed during the eradication of millions of Native Americans after European arrival in the New World. For three centuries, government-sanctioned bounties were issued for the dead bodies of Native Americans. As it became increasingly difficult for trappers to transport masses of rotting corpses, colonial governors agreed to pay for Native Americans' scalps and skins. Trappers subsequently began using the term "redskin" to symbolize the bloody skin and scalps they collected.

It is especially unseemly for our nation's capital to be represented by a football team whose name and mascot keep alive the spirit of inhumanity, subjugation and genocide that nearly wiped out the Native American population.

We sincerely request that you exercise leadership by changing the team's name so that it promotes an image that positively reflects the cultural and ethnic diversity and mutual respect that defines our great Nation.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Adelstein  
Henry Geller  
Dan Gonzalez  
David Honig

Reed Hundt  
Nicholas Johnson  
Erwin Krasnow  
Blair Levin

Andrew Schwartzman  
Sonny Skyhawk  
Gigi Sohn  
Brent Wilkes