

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians

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**Statement by the Siletz Tribe on the State Board of Education's
Decision to Ban Native Mascots**

We are very disappointed by the State of Oregon Board of Education's decision to ban the use of Native American mascots by all Oregon schools. In addition, we are equally disappointed that the Tribe's recommendation to allow Native mascots to be used by our Tribal community schools when approved by their local Tribe was not given consideration.

It is the opinion of the Siletz Tribe that this ban does nothing to address the real issues of racism nor does it address the issue of the low self-esteem of Native students attending public schools. For the Siletz Tribal community, this action has a negative impact on our students and our community. We will be forced once again to succumb to the misguided intentions of people who have no knowledge of Indian communities.

In March, the Siletz Tribe passed a resolution on Native American Logos and Mascots, recommending to the Board of Education that it "recognize the authority of the Tribes of Oregon to approve the use of Native American mascots and logos in their community schools."

The resolution went on to say that, "Other schools in the State of Oregon who wish to establish or maintain a Native American logo and mascot be required to promote cultural studies that combat stereotypes, teach students the value of cultural symbols and portray the true history of the people of their local Tribal community, so that they promote pride in and respect for a Native American logo and mascot."

Unfortunately, these recommendations have been ignored and Siletz Valley School, located in the Tribe's historical homelands and called the Warriors from the beginning, will have to change its Indian chief mascot.

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