

Governor Sonny Purdue
400 N. Capitol St., NW Ste 376
Washington DC 20001

October 7, 2010

Dear Governor Purdue:

We are writing on behalf of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP). Founded in 1951, the SSSP is an interdisciplinary professional association of scholars, practitioners, and students interested in the application of scientific and humanistic perspectives to the study of vital social problems. Our membership votes on resolutions addressing social issues of concern to the society and its members. At our annual meeting in Atlanta this year, the SSSP membership voted unanimously in support of the attached resolution, urging the Atlanta Braves organization to discontinue and to cease in promoting any and all demeaning and otherwise negative representations of Native Americans, and in particular tomahawk chants, paraphernalia, and logos. Attached as well is a copy of a resolution passed in 2007 by our membership and referenced in this year's resolution.

Our resolution process is a demanding one. We require individuals submitting resolutions to provide members, well in advance of the vote, with the necessary information required for a thoughtful and informed vote. Members have plenty of time as well to do their own research. The issue is one that our membership takes very seriously. We trust that you will give our request the same serious consideration. If you have any questions about the resolution, or if we can be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us. We would love to hear from you either way, to ensure that you received this letter and resolution, and to learn where your organization stands on this issue.

Sincerely,



JoAnn L. Miller, Ph. D.
President



Héctor L. Delgado, Ph.D.
Executive Officer

Enclosure

2010 RESOLUTION: DISCONTINUE THE ATLANTA “BRAVES” LOGO AND PARAPHERNALIA

WHEREAS in 2007, the SSSP approved a resolution calling for the discontinuation of the demeaning and racist use of Native American nicknames, logos, and mascots in sport; and

WHEREAS the Atlanta Braves organization, despite decades of requests and protests by Native American groups and organizations, continues to use Native America symbols and images that perpetuate stereotypes and the stigmatization of Native American people and Nations,

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the membership of the SSSP authorizes and directs the Administrative Office of the SSSP to send a copy of the 2007 Resolution and a letter to the Administrative Office of the Atlanta Braves, the Governor of Georgia, and the Mayor of Atlanta, with a copy to local newspapers, calling on the Atlanta Braves organization to discontinue and cease in promoting any and all demeaning and otherwise negative representations of Native Americans, and in particular tomahawk chants, paraphernalia, and logos.

2007 RESOLUTION

From: Racial and Ethnic Minorities Division

Statement by the Society for the Study of Social Problems Supporting the American Sociological Association Resolution that calls for Discontinuing the Use of Native American Nicknames, Logos and Mascots in Sports

WHEREAS the members of the Society for the Study of Social Problems recognize the need to fight racism, prejudice and discrimination;

WHEREAS the Society for the Study of Social Problems recognizes the harm that is caused by stereotypes of Native Americans embodied in the use of nicknames, logos and mascots in sports;

WHEREAS many Native American individuals across the United States have found Native American nicknames, logos and mascots in sport offensive and called for their elimination; and

WHEREAS the continued use of Native American nicknames, logos and mascots in sport has been condemned by numerous reputable academic, educational and civil rights organizations, and the vast majority of Native American advocacy organizations, including but not limited to: American Anthropological Association, American Psychological Association, North American Society for the Sociology of Sport, Modern Language Association, United States Commission on Civil Rights, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Association of American Indian Affairs, National Congress of American Indians, National Indian Education Association and American Sociological Association; whose resolution on this issue served as the foundation for this current resolution and the shared wording has been used with permission of the author and association;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Society for the Study of Social Problems along with the American Sociological Association call for discontinuing the use of Native American nicknames, logos and mascots in sport.