

KEITH ELLISON
5TH DISTRICT, MINNESOTA



CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP
CO-CHAIR CONGRESSIONAL
PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS

2244 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4755

2100 PLYMOUTH AVENUE NORTH
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55411
(612) 522-1212

ellison.house.gov
TWITTER: @keithellison

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS AND
GOVERNMENT SPONSORED ENTERPRISES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
AND CONSUMER CREDIT

November 6, 2013

Ms. Michele Kelm-Helgen, Chair
Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome
Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority
900 South 5th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Dear Chair Kelm-Helgen:

On Thursday, November 7, 2013, the Minnesota Vikings will host the Washington D.C.'s National Football League franchise. The term "Redskins," and corresponding logo have historically been used to demean and disparage Native Americans. The use of this term is inconsistent with our state's values and history. I urge you to reconsider allowing the use of this nickname and logo at tomorrow's game and in the future.

The Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome, the site of Thursday's game, is named after one of Minnesota's greatest leaders. Humphrey was a mayor of Minneapolis, U.S. senator and vice president of the United States throughout the 1940s, 50s, 60s and 70s. Humphrey was a steadfast opponent of discrimination, especially based on race. During his time in public office, he championed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, a landmark piece of legislation that prohibited discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin. It is only right that we honor the namesake of this publicly funded stadium by ensuring all Minnesotans feel comfortable and welcome while watching their hometown football team.

I understand that your organization, the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority (MSFA), decided on October 25, 2013 to allow the use of this name throughout tomorrow's game on the basis of freedom of speech. However, as the Metrodome is a publicly funded facility, I ask for further review of all applicable state statutes, City of Minneapolis ordinances and MSFA policies in the areas of affirmative action, civil rights and discrimination that may prevent the display and use of the Washington team's nickname and logo.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Keith Ellison in black ink.
Keith Ellison

Cc: Mr. Roger Goodell, National Football League
Mr. Daniel Snyder, Washington, D.C. Football Team