

Karen Clark



State Representative

District 61A
Minneapolis

Representatives

November 7, 2013

Dear friends and colleagues

I am sorry that I cannot be with you today at this important protest as I am on a legislative bonding tour in western Minnesota with the Minnesota House of Representatives.

So I am writing to express my **strong solidarity** with you and I appreciate the opportunity to have this letter read at the protest at the Vikings Stadium .

It is unthinkable that we still have not succeeded in effectively addressing continued use of degrading racial slurs in our publicly funded sports facilities. I believe that our demand that the Washington NFL team's mascot and use of the dehumanizing and outrageous name "Redskins" should be recognized and **rejected** as the demeaning, degrading and unacceptable racial and cultural slur that it is. In my opinion failure to stop this is a basic civil rights issue.

More than ever, it is important that our Minnesota Native American Indian communities know that **all** of their elected officials stand with them in rejecting appeals to hate and bigotry.

I salute the decades of work so many of you we have been doing to expose, educate about , and stop this kind of racism at its worst. Please know that **I am with you** in spirit and will be sending a copy of this letter to my colleagues and to those who can take the responsible action you are demanding today.

In solidarity,

Karen Clark, State Representative

Minneapolis District 62A