

Society of American Indian
Government Employees

17706 N. Peoria, Skiatook, OK 74070



Honoring Our Ancestors
Through Government Service

www.saige.org

To: SAIGE's Membership

July 9, 2020

Re: Chairwoman's Statement Regarding the Washington NFL Team

The Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE) is excited about the recent news reports that the Washington NFL Team has announced their plans to conduct a thorough review of their name and mascot. This is historic as Indian Country and SAIGE have asked for this change for a long time.

We know this is just the beginning of this process and many efforts have been done to change the name in the past. Those efforts include tribal leaders, citizens, and nonprofit organizations to bring about this change. The climate of Black Lives Matter and the leadership of our young people who clearly have demonstrated their need and want of changing the climate of racism in America cannot go unnoticed. In changing the name, it helps eliminate the stereotypes that the media has made over the years displaying natives in a negative light.

SAIGE will continue to follow this ongoing process. Patience is key as this has been a long time coming and we certainly want the new future name to be one that does not negatively impact or reflect on any group of people.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fredericka J. Joseph".

Fredericka Joseph
Chair, SAIGE
Board of Directors