

# **Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin**

## **BUSINESS COMMITTEE**



Oneidas bringing several hundred bags of corn to Washington's starving army at Valley Forge, after the colonists had consistently refused to aid them.



UGWA DEMOLUM YATEHE  
Because of the help of this Oneida Chief in cementing a friendship between the six nations and the colony of Pennsylvania, a new nation, the United States was made possible.

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### **Resolution # 5-19-04-C**

#### ***Objection to use of "Squaw" in ski resort name***

- WHEREAS,** the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin (Oneida Nation) is a federally recognized Indian government and a treaty tribe recognized by the laws of the United States, and
- WHEREAS,** the Oneida General Tribal Council is the governing body of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, and
- WHEREAS,** the Oneida Business Committee has been delegated the authority of Article IV, Section I of the Oneida Tribal Constitution by the Oneida General Tribal Council, and
- WHEREAS,** a recent Socially Responsible Investors (SRI) conference was held at a ski resort called "Resort at Squaw Creek," located in Olympic Valley, California, and
- WHEREAS,** the Oneida Trust Committee submitted a resolution which asks the Oneida Business Committee to request the National Congress of American Indians to object to a Ski resort's use of the name "squaw" because of the derogatory connotations to Native Women, and
- WHEREAS,** Socially Responsible Investing (SRI) means integrating personal values and societal concerns with investment decisions, and
- WHEREAS,** the Oneida Trust Committee's Investment philosophy contains Socially Responsible investment criteria and the Oneida Trust Committee is proactive when investing in companies who perpetuate racism and bigotry by use of stereotypical symbols, names or mascots that portray the Native Americans in a negative light, and
- WHEREAS,** the term "Squaw" is a derogatory term used for a Native American woman. The true meaning of this word is an obscene term referring to female genitalia, and

**WHEREAS,** when concerned individuals approached the management of the Resort at Squaw Creek regarding the term "Squaw" in their name, management's response was that "no one else complains about it," and they refuse to consider changing the Resort's name unless the Government tells them they have to, and

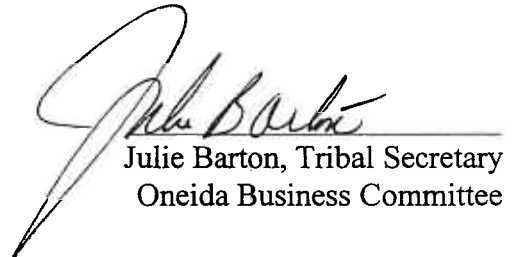
**WHEREAS,** the position statement from the National Congress of American Indians is; "the National Congress of American Indians strongly condemns the use of sports team mascots that claim to portray Native Americans and Native cultures in a positive light...it is only with Native Americans that this practice continues. It is a national insult and does nothing to honor the Native peoples of this country."

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Oneida Business Committee strongly objects to the name "Resort at Squaw Creek" because it is politically incorrect and perpetuates American Indian stereotypes that demean the history and culture of Native Nations and Native American Women.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,** that this resolution be forwarded to the National Congress of American Indians.

#### CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, as Secretary of the Oneida Business Committee, hereby certify that the Oneida Business Committee is composed of 9 members of whom 5 members constitute a quorum. 6 members were present at a meeting duly called, noticed and held on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2004; that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at such meeting by a vote of 5 members for; 0 members against, and 0 members not voting; and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

  
Julie Barton, Tribal Secretary  
Oneida Business Committee

**Statement of Effect**  
*Objection to use of "Squaw" in ski resort name*

**Summary and Analysis**

Members of the Oneida Trust Committee recently attended a conference of the Socially Responsible Investors (SRI) at a place called the *Resort at Squaw Creek* in Olympic Valley, California.

Because "squaw" is a derogatory term, the Trust Committee has requested that the Oneida Business Committee forward a resolution to the National Congress of American Indians which seeks their support in denouncing the use of the term which demeans native nations and Native American women.

**Conclusion**

There are no legal bars to adopting this resolution.

LOC/sdw  
5/18/04