

June 11, 2024

Paul McGonagle  
News Director  
Fox 5 DC  
7272 Wisconsin Avenue  
Bethesda, MD 20814

Dear Mr. McGonagle,

I write in support of my Montana constituent, Ryan Wetzel, who has voiced strong concerns with Fox 5's decision during your "On the Hill" segment on June 10, 2024 to disparage the iconic logo that adorned the helmets of the now-Washington Commanders for nearly five decades. As you know, this popular logo was inspired by Ryan's grandfather, Blackie Wetzel, and was based off of a photograph of Blackfeet tribal leader, Chief Two Guns White Calf. As you are also no doubt aware, Blackie Wetzel was a member of the Blackfeet Nation in Montana and served as Chairman of the Blackfeet Tribe and the President of the National Congress of American Indians.

In the interview in which District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser advocated for the Washington Commanders to return to the Robert F. Kennedy (RFK) Stadium site, Fox 5 played historical clips featuring Redskins games and crowds from an era when the franchise was among the most prestigious in the National Football League. Fox 5 also showed a photograph from the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing where I highlighted the rich Montana history behind the logo and the pride and heritage it holds in Indian Country.

Strangely, Fox 5 chose to blur and censor any depiction of the logo in each of these clips, insinuating the depiction of Chief Two Guns White Calf as reflected on the helmet is akin to obscene content.

On behalf of my constituents, especially those of the Blackfeet Tribe, I have two fundamental questions:

- Why did Fox 5 blur out the iconic logo during this segment?
- Who at Fox 5 was responsible for this decision?

As Mr. Wetzel made clear in his statement, the former logo is a symbol of pride, strength, and honor, and it is inconceivable what Fox 5 believes an audience might find offensive about the depiction of a legendary Native American chief. Further, I strongly believe any franchise or organization should be honored to be associated with the patriotism and pride of Native Americans, a demographic that serves in the United States Armed Forces at a rate higher than all

others. I find it appalling that Fox 5 apparently feels differently, and I believe the Wetzel family and other Native Americans across the country are owed an explanation.

I look forward to prompt responses to my questions and hope to see Mr. Wetzel's concerns addressed as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Daines". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Steve Daines  
United States Senator