Shareholders Raise Concerns about Washington DC NFL Team Name at FedEx Annual Meeting

FedEx Increasingly Embroiled in Ongoing Controversy over “Redskins” Name

September 29, 2014: This morning, investors presented a shareholder floor proposal at FedEx Corporation’s (NYSE:FDX) annual meeting asking the company to “take the steps necessary to drop or distance ties to the team, logos and/or stadium sponsorship until the Washington D.C. Football Team franchise abandons its degrading name.” FedEx possesses the naming rights to the team’s stadium, FedExField, in Landover, MD through 2026.

Speaking directly to senior leadership and the board, Susan White, Trust Director of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin explained “The Washington D.C. franchise’s name, “Redskins,” is a dehumanizing word with hateful connotations for Native American peoples and others concerned about human rights. We consider the Washington team name a racial slur, tracing back to colonial times when bounties were paid on a sliding scale for the skins of Native men, women and children, and traded like animal hides. The term did not describe actions that honored Indian peoples then and it still represents racism and genocide today for Native peoples.”

The Oneida Trust of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin is the lead filer of the proposal, with Mashantucket (Western) Pequot Tribe Endowment Trust, Mercy Investment Services, and Calvert Balanced, Calvert Large Cap Core, Calvert Social Index, Calvert VP S&P 500 and Calvert VP SRI Portfolios serving as co-filers, along with support and assistance from Boston Common Asset Management, Walden Asset Management and Trillium Asset Management.

“FedEx’s board and management have an opportunity to demonstrate its commitment to diversity, but each time a game is broadcast or the team name mentioned, the company is perceived as supporting disparaging and racist language, said Jonas D. Kron, Senior Vice President, Director of Shareholder Advocacy at Trillium Asset Management, LLC. “FedEx’s role as team sponsor will only attract more and more attention to its untenable position.”

Two hundred civil rights organizations, including the NAACP and every single national American Indian organization, have condemned the name. Even national voices as disparate as President Obama, U.S. Senator Harry Reid, and Washington Post columnist Charles Krauthammer have weighed in against the team name. Sportswriters and newspapers have also chosen to stop the use of the name. For example, NBC’s Bob Costas of Sunday Night Football, Sports Illustrated’s Peter King and USA Today’s Christine Brennan all publicly concluded the team name is a racial slur.

In May, 50 U.S. Senators sent letters to NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell urging him to push for a name change as “The NFL can no longer ignore this and perpetuate the use of this name as anything but what it is: a racial slur.” Federal legislation is being introduced to eliminate the NFL’s tax exempt status as it has not addressed the Washington team name issue.

FedEx has an opportunity to demonstrate leadership as a team sponsor and to examine its involvement in supporting racial stereotypes," said Reed Montague, Sustainability Analyst at Calvert Investments. "Without clear disclosure on how the company plans to address the issue, it will continue to face heightened reputational risk.”
With its corporate name on FedExField, the company continues to be associated with the controversial team name. Newspapers and media outlets use FedEx in stories, articles and headlines related to the Washington team.

“The Washington team cannot continue to use a symbol that is racist and offensive to Native Americans and to others of us conscious of the hatred behind the naming of people by the perceived color of their skin. If FedEx truly believes that its name is ‘synonymous with integrity and reliability,’ and that its ‘reputation is an important strategic asset,’ FedEx must take steps to ‘protect and enhance it.’ If not, the FedEx Code of Business Conduct and Ethics is meaningless. Our 2014 shareholder proposal demonstrates clearly that ‘FedEx’ is associated with racial controversy. Furthermore, this is an issue of justice and compassion, not only toward Native Americans but toward all immigrant groups objectified by some sort of racial or nationality slur.” said Sister Valerie Heinonen, o.s.u., Mercy Investment Services, Inc.

"We encourage FedEx to fully appreciate the emotional violence that racist stereotypes do to Native youth, including the current disparaging name of the Washington D.C. NFL football organization,” said Steven Heim, Managing Director, Boston Common Asset Management, LLC. “We urge FedEx to end its financial ties until the racist name is changed or distance its association with such disparagement.”

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For more information:

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Steven Heim, Boston Common Asset Management, LLC, sheim@bostoncommonasset.com, 617-785-9527
Boston Common Asset Management
September 28, 2014

Total Organization and Tribal Supporters = 103

Signatories to original Petition to the Board of Directors of FedEx Corporation, by Oneida Trust Department of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, submitted March 2012

Investor Signatories

Adrian Dominican Sisters
Christopher Matthias, Program Coordinator

Azzad Asset Management
Bashar Quasem, President & CEO

Better World Investments, Inc.
Renee Morgan, President

Boston Common Asset Management, LLC
Geeta Aiyer, President

Calvert Investment Management, Inc.
Bennett Freeman, Senior Vice President, Sustainability Policy and Research

Catholic Healthcare East
Kathleen Coll, Administrator, Shareholder Advocacy

Congregation of St. Basil
Margaret Weber, Corporate Responsibility Director

Dignity Health
Susan Vickers, VP Community Health

Dominican Sisters of Hope
Valerie Heinonen, Director of Shareholder Advocacy

Everence Financial
Mark A. Regier, Director of Stewardship Investing

First Affirmative Financial Network
Steve J. Schueth, President

General Board of Global Ministries, The United Methodist Church
David Wildman, Executive Secretary, Human Rights & Racial Justice

King Investment Advisors, Inc.
Roger E. King, President

Marianist Province of the United States
Steven O’Neil, Shareholder Action Coordinator
Mashantucket (Western) Pequot Tribe Endowment Trust  
Carla Fredericks, Board Chair

Mercy Investments Services, Inc.  
Valerie Heinonen, Director of Shareholder Advocacy

Natural Investments, LLC  
Michael Kramer, AIF®, Managing Partner and Director of Social Research

Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin  
Susan White, Director of Oneida Trust

Pax World Mutual Funds  
Joe Keefe, President & CEO

Praxis Mutual Funds  
Mark A. Regier, Director of Stewardship

Progressive Asset Management  
Richard W. Torgerson, Director

Reynders, McVeigh Capital Management  
Patrick McVeigh, President

Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Associates, St. Louis Province  
Diana Oleskevich, CSJA

Spring Water Asset Management  
Lars M. Lewander, President

The Sustainability Group - Loring, Wolcott & Coolidge Trust, LLC  
Thomas E. Francione, Shareholder Advocacy & SRI Research

Trillium Asset Management, LLC  
Matt Patsky, CEO

Ursuline Sisters of Tildonk, U.S. Province  
Valerie Heinonen, Director of Shareholder Advocacy

Walden Asset Management  
Tim Smith, Senior Vice President

Zevin Asset Management  
Sonia Kowal, Director of Socially Responsible Investing

**Supporting Signatories**

American Indians for Opportunity  
LaDonna Harris, President

Eagle Opportunity  
Lynn Rapp, President

First Peoples Worldwide  
Rebecca Adamson, President & Founder
Green America
Alisa Gravitz, Executive Director

Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility
Laura Berry, Executive Director

International Indian Treaty Council
Andrea Carmen, Executive Director

The Morning Star Institute
Suzan Shown Harjo, President

National Congress of American Indians
Jefferson Keel, President

Responsible Sourcing Network
Patricia Jurewicz, Director

Unitarian Universalist Association
Timothy Brennan, Treasurer & CFO
(should be included as Investor Signatory)

Robert Warrior (Osage), Ph.D., Professor, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, American Indian Studies

Wisconsin Indian Education Association - "Indian" Mascot and Logo Taskforce, Barbara E. Munson, Chairperson

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Additional Supporters of FedEx Petition and the September 2013 Shareholder Proposal to FedEx (Floor Motion), as of September 20, 2013

Breakwater Investment Group / Tribal Trust & Investment
Leilani Wilson Walkush, Senior Consultant

Mohawk Council of Akwesasne
Cactus Cook Sunday, M.Ed., Manager, Aboriginal Rights and Research Office

Newground Social Investment
Bruce Herbert, AIF, Chief Executive

Northfork Financial, LLC
William (Bill) Stoddart, Founder and President

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Tribes Supporting the September 2013 Shareholder Proposal to FedEx

Last section of Resolution #13-79, “URGING FEDEX TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE WASHINGTON DC PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL TEAM”
Adopted at the 2013 Annual Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI), September 16 – 19, 2013, Worley, Idaho.

ATNI is a regional organization comprised of 57 American Indians/Alaska Natives and tribes in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska.

... WHEREAS, we are especially troubled that FedEx continues its marketing partnership with the Washington NFL franchise and its promotion of its dehumanizing name; and WHEREAS, on Monday, September 23, 2013, FedEx will hold their annual shareholder's meeting and we support the petition being brought forward to re-evaluate its business relationship with the Washington DC team name; now THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby request our 57 Tribes to oppose the name of the Redskins; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI Urges FedEx Corporation to rename the stadium where the Washington DC Professional Football team plays.

ATNI Member Tribes *

Blackfeet Nation  MT
Burns-Paiute Tribe  OR
Chehalis Tribe  WA
Chinook Tribe  WA
Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy Reservation  MT
Confederated Tribes and Bands of Yakama Indian Nation  WA
Confederated Tribes of Colville  WA
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw  OR
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde  OR
Confederated Tribes of Salish & Kootenai  MT
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians  OR
Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indians  OR
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs  OR
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua  OR
Cowlitz Indian Tribe  WA
Coeur d'Alene Tribe  ID
Duwamish Tribe  WA
Hoh Tribe  WA
Hoopa Valley Tribe  CA
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe  WA
Kalispel Tribe of Indians  WA
Klamath Tribe  OR
Kootenai Tribe of Idaho  ID
Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe  WA
Lummi Nation  WA
Makah Tribe  WA
Muckleshoot Indian Tribe  WA
Nisqually Tribe  WA
Nez Perce Tribe  ID
Nooksack Indian Tribe  WA
Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation  ID
Organized Village of Kassan  AK
Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe WA
Puyallup Tribe WA
Quileute Tribe WA
Quinault Indian Nation WA
Samish Indian Nation WA
Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe WA
Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe WA
Skokomish Tribal Nation WA
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes ID
Shoshone-Paiute Tribes NV
Snohomish Tribe WA
Snoqualmie Indian Tribe WA
Spokane Tribe of Indians WA
Squaxin Island Tribe WA
Stellaquamish Tribe WA
Stillacoom Tribe WA
Summit Lake Paiute Tribe NV
Suquamish Tribe WA
Swinomish Tribe WA
Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes AK
Tulalip Tribe WA
Upper Skagit Tribe WA

• Note – Not a complete list of member tribes. List as of 2005.

Additional supporters for new floor motion shareholder proposal for 2014 FedEx Corporation Annual Shareholders Meeting, September 29, 2014

Portfolio Advisory Board of the Adrian Dominican Sisters
Lura Mack, Director

CHE Trinity Health Inc. *
Sr. Kathleen Coll, SSJ, Administrator, Shareholder Advocacy

Clean Yield Asset Management *
Shelley Alpern, Director of Social Research & Advocacy

Dominican Sisters of Hope
Valerie Heinonen, o.s.u., Director of Shareholder Advocacy

First Affirmative Financial Network
Steven J. Schueth, President

First Peoples Worldwide
Rebecca Adamson, President and Founder
Nick Pelosi, Corporate Engagement Associate

Friends Fiduciary Corporation *
Jeffrey W. Perkins, Executive Director

Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment *
Judy Byron, OP, Director
Pax World Management LLC
Julie Fox Gorte, Ph.D, Senior Vice President for Sustainable Investing

Progressive Asset Management
Catherine Cartier, President

Unitarian Universalist Association
Tim Brennan, Treasurer & CFO

Zevin Asset Management
Sonia Kowal, President

* New supporting organization as of September 28, 2014, not on previous lists of supporters.

CHE Trinity Health Inc. is a new organization formed by merger of Catholic Health East and Trinity Health.