



**NOTTAWASEPPI HURON  
BAND OF THE POTAWATOMI**

A FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

March 14, 2025

Robert J. Jones  
Chancellor  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
517 Swanlund Admin Building  
601 E John  
M/C 304  
Champaign, IL 61820-5711

Dear Chancellor Jones,

The Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi strongly supports the student-led efforts to replace the retired University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign mascot. As you are aware, while the former mascot was officially retired, its harmful imagery continues to persist in campus culture, affecting students and alumni alike. This ongoing presence underscores the need for a thoughtful and community-driven replacement that fosters inclusivity and respect.

Your endorsement would add a meaningful voice to this movement, reinforcing the importance of establishing a mascot that reflects the values of diversity and unity. The success of previous replacement efforts, such as the Belted Kingfisher, has demonstrated that change is possible with institutional backing. With nearly every campus entity—including students, faculty, and graduate students—supporting the adoption of a new mascot, the final step is encouraging the administration to act and implement a clear plan for this transition.

By lending your support, you can help ensure that UIUC moves forward in a way that respects Indigenous communities and creates a positive and representative school identity. Thank you for considering this request. Your leadership in advocating for Indigenous representation is invaluable. We appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dorie Rios  
Tribal Council Chairperson