

June 7, 2021

John T. Stankey
Chief Executive Officer
AT&T, Inc.
208 South Akard Street
Dallas, Texas 75202

Dear Mr. Stankey:

We, the undersigned and representing over \$111.7 billion assets under management, are writing to you today to urge AT&T to address multiple recent instances of erasure, bias, and racism against Native Americans by CNN, a property of AT&T's WarnerMedia.

We support requests from the Native American community that call for CNN to create standards and policies that ensure respect for Native peoples and Indigenous cultures; diversify on-air talent and contributors to ensure regular contributions from Native and Indigenous peoples; proactively include issues and voices of Indigenous Peoples in news coverage and commentary; undergo anti-bias training and co-create processes with the Native community on how to respectfully engage with Native peoples; and remove anyone from its platforms that espouses anti-Native bias.

If action is not taken immediately, we have deep concerns that this behavior will continue, and that harm to Native peoples will compound through CNN's inaccurate reporting and failure to acknowledge the considerable political, cultural, social, and economic contributions of Native peoples. Further, the referenced incidents below stand in clear contrast to AT&T's stated commitments to diversity and equity in content and media production.

Over a six-month period, CNN has broadcast at least three deeply concerning and egregious instances of misrepresentation of Native peoples:

During election coverage on November 4, 2020, CNN released a poll with "Something Else" as a catch-all category including Native peoples. This issue was never addressed publicly, nor was there transparent action on how CNN would change policy and process to include and respect Native peoples, despite [wide public outcry from Native peoples](#).

On April 20, 2021, CNN Anchor Poppy Harlow [incorrectly identified](#) Minnesota Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan, a citizen of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe and the highest-ranking Native woman elected to executive office in U.S. history, as a white woman. There has been no action to date by CNN leadership or by Poppy Harlow to publicly apologize and correct the issue on air.

Most recently, CNN commentator Rick Santorum delivered ignorant anti-Native views in a public speech, stating "we birthed a nation from nothing... I mean, yes, we have Native Americans but candidly, there isn't much Native American culture in American culture." On May 3, 2021, Santorum was [given a national platform](#) to discuss his speech on CNN's

Cuomo Primetime, during which he refused to acknowledge the harm he caused Native peoples or apologize for his words. Moreover, no Native people were included in the program to give context for the harms. (We understand Santorum said in a separate statement to the UK's *The Independent*: "I had no intention of minimising or in any way devaluing Native American culture.")

The failure by CNN to publicly acknowledge the negative impacts of these incidents is tantamount to erasure – a tactic utilized throughout history to delegitimize Native sovereignty and minimize historical and ongoing atrocities towards Native people. In the reverse, allowing these incidents to go un-addressed normalizes negative stereotypes and Native invisibility. CNN's content thus undermines the accurate, equitable and fair representation of Indigenous Peoples to the detriment of their modern cultural contributions and financial and political wellbeing.

Any one of these instances of racist mischaracterization and Native erasure is enough to warrant immediate corrective action, which has yet to occur. Taken together these instances represent a system that allows anti-Native bias in CNN's content production that perpetuates stereotypes to a global audience.

Further, CNN's behavior is out of step with [AT&T's commitment](#) to foster diversity and inclusion within the company's "five pillars," which includes content creation. These instances of Native erasure also run counter to WarnerMedia's [diversity and equity statement](#), which prioritizes "diversity of our society and the world around us" within its content and commits to "preserving a culture of opportunity, inclusion, and respect." CNN's broadcasts outlined above fail to meet these standards by any measure.

Advertisers who underwrote the May 3 *Cuomo Primetime* episode [have been contacted](#) by the media about the most recent incident, and we have included CNN's major primetime advertisers on this letter, as we believe their brands may be negatively affected by their association with CNN if steps are not taken for immediate change. We urge all advertisers and business associates of AT&T, WarnerMedia and CNN to use their relationships to end the erasure of Native peoples in media. If CNN fails to do so through concrete steps, we recommend terminating business relationships.

Given these three recent incidents, CNN's brand is currently strongly linked with anti-Native rhetoric. We are asking for AT&T to ensure concerns are addressed fully and immediately. If immediate steps are not taken, harm against Native people will continue and likely escalate, and CNN's reputation as a neutral and reputable news source will be seriously undermined.

Therefore, the undersigned 50 plus investors and organizations representing over \$111.7 billion in assets, ask you to live up to your stated commitments to diversity and equity in content and production by acknowledging the recent harms done, and by engaging meaningfully with Native organizations and Native peoples to take the action identified at the top of this letter.

Sincerely,

Boston Common Asset Management, LLC (Co-Lead)
Mercy Investment Services, Inc. (Co-Lead)

Adasina Social Capital
Adrian Dominican Sisters, Portfolio Advisory Board
As You Sow
Azzad Asset Management
Clean Yield Asset Management
Cogent Consulting PBC
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes
Congregation of St. Joseph
Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise
Domini Impact Investments
Dominican Sisters
Dominican Sisters ~ Grand Rapids
First Nations Community Financial
Friends Fiduciary Corporation
Impact Investors
Integrated Capital Investing
Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility
JSA Sustainable Wealth Management
Maryknoll Sisters
Miller/Howard Investments, Inc.
MNCFN Community Trust
Nathan Cummings Foundation
Natural Investments
NDN Collective
NorthFork Financial
NorthStar Asset Management, Inc.
Northwest Coalition for Responsible Investment
Oneida Nation
Region VI Coalition for Responsible Investment
Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition for Responsible Investment
Shareholder Association for Research and Education (SHARE)
Sisters of Mary Reparatrix
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, PA
Sisters of St. Dominic Racine, WI
Sisters of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, New York
Sisters of the Precious Blood
Sisters of the Presentation of the BVM of Aberdeen SD
Socially Responsible Investment Coalition
Sustainable Advisors Alliance LLC

Swift Foundation
The Bay and Paul Foundations
Trillium Asset Management
Trinity Health
Unitarian Universalist Association
United Church Funds
Ursuline Convent of the Sacred Heart
Veris Wealth Partners
Zevin Asset Management

ADDENDUM - CNN's Top Advertisers of 2020 – Company Name and Classification

ADT - SECURITY SYS	GRUBHUB - ONLINE-FOOD DELIVERY
ALLSTATE - INSURANCE AUTO	HOMEADVISOR - ONLINE-REFERRAL
AMAZON - ONLINE RETAILER	HUMANA - INSURANCE-HEALTH
AMAZON WEB SVCS - CLOUD COMPUTING SVCS	INDEED - ONLINE-EMPLOYMENT SVCS
AMERICAN ADVISORS GROUP - MORTGAGE CO	INTUIT QUICKBOOKS - COMPUTER SFTWRE
ANCESTRY - GENEALOGY SVCS	INVESCO - FINANCIAL NVESTMENT SVCS
APOQUEL - RX ANIMAL	LEAFFILTER - GUTTERS
ASPCA - CHARITABLE ORGN	LEAFFILTER - HOME REPAIR SVCS
AT&T - TELECOMM SVCS & SYS	LIBERTY MUTUAL - INSURANCE-AUTO
AT&T -TELEPH SVCS-WIRELESS	LINCOLN - VEHICLE-MULTI LINE
AUDIBLE - STREAMING SVCS-AUDIO	MASIMO - MEDICAL EQUIP
BATH FITTER - HOME REPAIR SVCS	MAUNE RAICHLE HARTLEY FRENCH & MUDD -
BIDEN JOE DEMOCRATIC PARTY - POLITICAL	LEGAL SVCS
CAMPAIGN	MEDICARE BENEFITS & QUESTIONS LINE -
BIKTARVY - RX HUMAN-HIV	REFERRAL SVCS
BMW - VEHICLE-MULTI LINE	MEDICARE BENEFITS HOTLINE - REFERRAL
CALM APP - HEALTH-FITNESS	SVCS
CARE.COM - ONLINE-REFERRAL	MEDICARE COVERAGE HELPLINE - REFERRAL
CARSHIELD - WARRANTY SVCS	SVCS
CARVANA - ONLINE-VEHICLE SALES	MINT MOBILE - TELEPH SVCS-WIRELESS
CHARLES SCHWAB & CO - FINANCIAL-	NOOM - ONLINE-HEALTH-FITNESS
INVESTMENT SVCS	NORDIC TRACK - EXERCISE EQUIP
CHASE - BANK SVCS	NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL - FINANCIAL-
CNN - CABLE TV NETWORK	INVESTMENT SVCS
CNN - CNN SPECIAL REPORT TV PGM -CABLE-	NORTON 360 - COMPUTER SFTWRE
ENT	NUTRISYSTEM FOR MEN - WEIGHT LOSS
CNN FIRST LADIES - TV PGM - CABLE-ENT	PROGRAM
CNN THIS IS LIFE - TV PGM - CABLE-NEWS	NUTRISYSTEM - WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAM
CNN - TV PGM - CABLE-NEWS	OTEZLA - RX HUMAN-PSORIASIS
CNN UNITED SHADES OF AMERICA - TV PGM -	OZEMPIC - RX HUMAN-DIABETES
CABLE-ENT	PAYCOM - BUSINESS SVCS
CNN WINDSORS INSIDE THE RYL DYNSTY TV	PROGRESSIVE - INSURANCE-HOMEOWNERS
PGM - CABLE-ENT	PROGRESSIVE - INSURANCE-MOTORCYCLE
COLONIAL PENN - INSURANCE-LIFE	RAKUTEN - ONLINE RETAILER
CONSUMER CELLULAR - TELEPH SVCS-	RINVOQ - RX HUMAN-RHEUMATD ARTHRTS
WIRELESS	ROCKET MORTGAGE - MORTGAGE CO
COVENTRY DIRECT - INSURANCE-LIFE	ROMAN - ONLINE-MEDICAL SVCS
DAILY HARVEST - ONLINE-FOOD DELIVERY	SAINT JUDE CHILDRENS RESEARCH HOSPITAL -
DELL TECHNOLOGIES - BUSINESS SVCS	HOSPITAL
DEXCOM G6 - WEARABLE TECH-MULTI FNCTN	SANDALS - RESORT
DISH NETWORK - SATELLITE COMM SVCS	SCHIFF NEURIVA - NUTRITIONAL SUPPLMT
DOVATO - RX HUMAN-HIV	SELECTQUOTE - INSURANCE AGENCY
E TRADE FINANCIAL – ONLINE - FINANCE	SHRINERS - PSA
ENTYVIO - RX HUMAN-ULCERATIVE COLTS	SKYRIZI - RX HUMAN-PSORIASIS
ETSY - ONLINE RETAILER	SLEEP NUMBER STORE - BEDS-BEDDING
EXPERIAN CREDIT SVCS	SLING TV - STREAMING SVCS-VIDEO
FARMER'S DOG - FOOD DELIVERY SVCS	SOFI - BANK SVCS
FIDELITY INVESTMENTS - FINANCIAL-	T-MOBILE BUSINESS - TELEPH SVCS-WIRELESS
INVESTMENT SVCS	TD AMERITRADE - ONLINE-FINANCE
GEICO - INSURANCE-AUTO	THERAWORX RELIEF - PAIN RELVR
GOMEDICARE BENEFITS - HELP CTR REFERRAL	TRACTOR SUPPLY CO -STORE-FARM EQUIP-
SVCS	SUPLS

TRULICITY - RX-HUMAN-DIABETES
UBER - TRANSPORTATION SVCS
UBEREATS - ONLINE-FOOD DELIVERY
UNITED HEALTHCARE - INSURANCE-HEALTH
UNITED STATES DEPT OF HEALTH & HUMN SVCS
- GOVT ADV-FEDERAL
UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX - UNIVERSITY

USAA - INSURANCE
USAA - INSURANCE-AUTO
VERIZON WIRELESS - TELEPH SVCS-WIRELESS
VROOM – ONLINE VEHICLE SALES
WAYFAIR - ONLINE RTL-HOME FURNSHNGS
WHOLE FOODS MARKET - SUPERMARKET