



25th Navajo Nation Council

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 14, 2024

The 25th Navajo Nation Council stands with Indigenous Nations in celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day



Window Rock, Ariz. – The 25th Navajo Nation Council stands in solidarity with Indigenous nations across the Americas who continue to advocate for recognition of Indigenous Peoples' Day in all places. This day serves as a reminder of the resilience, strength, and wisdom of Indigenous communities who have stewarded these lands for generations long before the establishment of our country.

Columbus Day, first established as a federal holiday in 1937 by U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, honors Christopher Columbus, a figure often wrongfully credited with 'discovering' the Americas. President Joe Biden signed a Presidential Proclamation on Oct. 6, 2023, recognizing the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day.

"Indigenous Peoples' Day acknowledges the grave injustices that Indigenous peoples have faced in colonization, forced assimilation, disease, and genocide, which are often ignored when others celebrate Columbus Day. Recognizing this history is a critical step in the ongoing journey toward healing, reconciliation, and justice," said Speaker Crystalne Curley.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council has previously taken legislative action to support the establishment of Indigenous Peoples' Day as a federal holiday.

On Oct. 12, 2023, the Naabik'iyáti' Committee unanimously passed Legislation 0236-23, supporting two separate congressional bills aimed at replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day.

Speaker Curley also signed resolution NABIO-36-23, on Oct. 17, 2023, confirming the Council's support of House Resolution 5822 and Senate Resolution 2970. The two bills aim to revise Title 5 of the United States Code to establish Indigenous Peoples' Day as a legal public holiday. Both bills are currently moving through Senate and House Committees.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council continues to work with congressional leadership to change the holiday, providing a path forward in acknowledging the historical realities suffered by Indigenous people.

Despite the atrocious injustices suffered by Indigenous peoples from colonization, tribal nations continue to hold reverence for their traditional languages and cultures to strengthen their paths to prosperity.

"Today, we celebrate the rich history of Indigenous communities, the original inhabitants of the Americas, and highlight our important contributions to society," said Speaker Curley. "As Indigenous people, we continue to fight as our ancestors had to protect our land, water, air, and all resources for our future generations."

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