

## Indigenous Peoples Day

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Fri 3/11/2022 5:47 PM

To: Robin Schmidt <Robin.Schmidt@house.mn>

I am writing in support of making Indigenous Peoples Day a state holiday, and removing Columbus Day as a state holiday. Columbus was not a hero. He was a racist, misogynist opportunist whose life accomplishments resulted in the oppression and genocide of millions of people.

When we continue to celebrate a man whose work resulted in the deaths of so many relatives of our native neighbors, we send them the message that their lives matter no more to us than their ancestors lives mattered to Columbus. This is simply not true. As a resident of Minnesota and a human being, I respect the sovereignty and humanity of my native neighbors. I want to work of our state, including the holidays we choose to perpetuate to be an expression of this respect.

Thank you

Michelle Webber  
Moorhead, MN

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