

District

Dear Representative,

Holidays represent important milestones and events. We celebrate many holidays to recognize who we are as cultural, national, ethnic, and religious groups: the Fourth of July, Christmas, Chanukah, Ramadan, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Presidents’ Day, and many more.

But our calendars have an important absence. We don’t have a day to celebrate American Indian cultures or to commemorate the history of native peoples. This absence is profound in its silence. It lets us remain blind to the past and to ignore the challenges we still face today. Native Americans lived in the Minnesota area with rich cultures long before European contact. We need to recognize and celebrate our state’s Indigenous roots.

We call on state legislators to vote YES on an important bill to designate the second Monday in October as American Indian and Indigenous Peoples Day. The bill also encourages all public and private entities to participate in events to recognize this day and to advance remedies for disparities that many American Indians face today. Official recognition of this day signals our state’s commitment to the well-being of Native Americans, and is an important step in educating our citizens about Indigenous cultures and history.

Sincerely,

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(signature)

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