

SB2316

My name is Amy Ingersoll and I am writing today in support of Senate Bill 2316 to recognize the second Monday in October as First Nations Day. I prefer to honor Native Americans, the first peoples, who have been here for thousands of years and who have enriched and shaped our lives in invaluable ways; instead of the current namesake. He was one of the last explorers to reach America, not the first; and history has taught us that his successes were largely to establish a trade route for enslaved people and monetize colonization, to say nothing of the violence he prioritized in those efforts. To be frank, we now know better, so what exactly are we celebrating?

It is so important that our ideals and values adapt to our growing understanding and awareness. There is no doubt that diverse traditions, culture, language, food ways, music and art enhance our lives and our shared humanity. In North Dakota we are especially fortunate to share geography with five federally recognized Tribes and one Indian community, making our diversity all the more beautiful. This proclamation would loudly state to our First Nations that we see you and we value you. What a wonderful way to celebrate all of those contributions.

Please support SB 2316.