

Senator Richard Marcellais  
Senate District 9  
Testimony for HB 1545

Chairman Beltz members of the House Agriculture Committee for the record my name is Richard Marcellais North Dakota State Senator in District 9.

HB 1545, relating to changing the name of First Nations Day to Indigenous Peoples Day.

On October 12th, First Nations is proud to stand with Native communities across this nation in honor of Indigenous People's Day. This day, which began as a counter-celebration to Columbus Day, raises awareness of the true history of the United States while celebrating the culture and resilience of Native People.

In 2016, First Nations launched ground breaking research into America's perceptions - and misperceptions about Native Americans. Here it was uncovered that the majority of information that people have about Native people is not true and oftentimes based in stereotypes or historical myth. Invisibility, inaccurate school education curricula, and lack of Native representation across all aspects of American life contribute to the misconceptions and misbeliefs that most Americans hold about Native American people.

HB 1545 is requesting the change from First Nations Day to Indigeous Peoples Day to honor the Native American Nations in North Dakota. I am requesting a Do Pass on HB 1545.