



# North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL  
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## **Representative Collette Brown**

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## **COMMITTEES:**

Industry, Business and Labor  
Government and Veterans Affairs

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Chairman Barta and Committee Members for the record my name is Collette Brown Representative from District 9 which encompasses two of the five Tribes in ND, the TMBC and SLT.

I stand before you today to urge your support for House Bill 1545,

The phrase "Indigenous Peoples" carries significant weight, representing all Native American tribes and communities. Embracing "Indigenous Peoples Day" positions North Dakota within a transformative national movement dedicated to honoring the rich histories, cultures, and invaluable contributions of Indigenous peoples. This change is vital not only for recognizing the diverse Indigenous communities in our state but also for fostering inclusivity and respect for all Native peoples.

Across the nation, numerous states and municipalities have taken the important step of recognizing "Indigenous Peoples Day" alongside or in place of other observances. This shift symbolizes a profound commitment to honoring Indigenous histories and addressing past injustices. By adopting this designation, North Dakota would join a unified effort to celebrate and uplift Indigenous cultures and their essential contributions to our society.

Within our state, there is an increasing call from tribal citizens and advocates for this pivotal change. Recognizing "Indigenous Peoples Day" deeply resonates with our communities, signifying a commitment to inclusivity and respect for all Native peoples. This initiative is far more than a symbolic gesture; it represents a crucial step toward fostering greater understanding and unity among all residents of North Dakota.

House Bill 1545 is an opportunity for North Dakota to appropriately honor its Indigenous communities and align itself with a national movement that recognizes the significant impact of Indigenous contributions to our society. I strongly urge the committee to support this bill, demonstrating our state's dedication to inclusivity, respect, and the celebration of all our diverse peoples.

Thank you for your time and consideration.