

Tim Kaine  
Virginia



April 16, 2024

Mr Rick Tatnall  
The Pocahontas Project  
514 North 30<sup>th</sup> Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23223

Dear Mr. Tatnall:

Thank you for contacting me about the Indigenous Peoples' Day Act. I appreciate hearing from you.

In 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared the second Monday of every October as Columbus Day, a national holiday celebrating the day Christopher Columbus came ashore to the Americas on October 12th, 1492. Recent efforts to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day seeks to promote a more truthful account of our country's colonial past, recognize the enormous challenges that Native Americans have overcome, and celebrate the wealth of contributions they have made, and continue to make, to American culture.

On September 28, 2023, Senator Martin Heinrich introduced the Indigenous Peoples' Day Act. I am a proud cosponsor of this bill, which would make Indigenous Peoples' Day a federal holiday across the country. This bill has been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Virginia is home to seven federally recognized Native American tribes. One of my proudest achievements in Congress has been sponsoring the Thomasina E. Jordan Act, signed into law in 2018, which granted federal recognition to six of those seven tribes, after centuries of that recognition being denied. Federal recognition is a step towards rectifying grave injustices of the past.

Thank you again for contacting me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Kaine', written in a cursive style.

Timothy M. Kaine