

My name is Charley Praither and I am a resident of SW Portland, Oregon. I am testifying today in support of Oregon HB 2526 which would designate the second Monday of October of each year as Indigenous Peoples' Day. I am a non-enrolled lineal descendant of the Santee Sioux tribe of Nebraska. My family moved to Oregon from our reservation when my grandmother was a little girl. I've heard many stories of her time living in Oregon, including her memories of watching the destruction of historically sacred landmarks like Celilo Falls. The State of Oregon has a long history of racism and white supremacy including the expulsion of Indigenous peoples from the land that was stolen from them through centuries of colonization. It's time for Oregon leaders to take this important step of recognizing Oregon's Native peoples, the sovereignty of numerous local tribes, the theft of our land, the broken treaties, our right to healthy foods and clean water, and the ongoing genocide of our missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two spirited cousins. Designating a single day in October as Indigenous People's Day creates important space for participation in ongoing education and action to support our Indigenous communities year round. Thank you.