

I write in support of Oregon's proposed Indigenous People's Day, certainly not in competition with any other group's acknowledgement but in concert with them. This is based in our Native beliefs that All Life Matters, All. And while the colonializing powers have treated many minority races badly by any humane standard, between disease, intrigues and outright extermination, the Indigenous Nations of the Americas have barely survived over five hundred years' genocide.

This day might be employed to celebrate not only the survival of the remnants of earlier cultures, but our commonality, not only with other colors of humans but with the subtleties and nuances of life itself, what is now called our biosphere or ecosystem. That which sustains life on Earth, from stromatolites to mammals is not separate from us, it is our world and we are part of it.

Please consider this proposal and implement it in ways to bring us all together in respect for life and sustainance. Ultimately, it is respect for a Natural Creator and Sustainer, instead of an anthropologically based artificial one designed to let humans off the hook for their actions.

Very respectfully,

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