

To: NV Senate Government Affairs Committee

Subject: Indigenous People's Day, AB144

Recommendation: Celebrate all Cultures: Oppose

Dear Senate Government Affairs Committee:

This bill provides for Nevada to establish an "Indigenous People's Day", to be set on the second Monday of October of every year. The Governor is to make a proclamation to this effect annually. The purpose is to give indigenous peoples a greater voice in our State, and to show appreciation of indigenous people's heritage and cultural contributions to our community. All laudable goals.

The fact is that Nevada already has a day so designated. In 2017, "Indigenous People's Day" was established by law to occur on August 9 of every year.

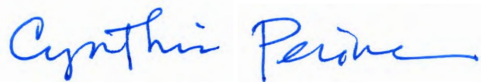
This bill allows for this day to fall on the traditional Columbus Day in October, so as to highlight the Discoverer's poor treatment of indigenous peoples on the new continent.

In so doing, this move undermines a cherished holiday celebrated by descendants of Italian immigrants, many of whom endured discrimination but whose resilience and grit have done much to build our Nation.

The question at hand is: how does this enhance the unity, mutual respect and well-being of all communities in our State?

Let us promote the beauty and variety of all cultures in Nevada, not diminish one at the expense of another. The best way to do this is to let August 9 and second Monday in October remain as they are.

Respectfully,



Cynthia Perine

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