



2015 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 71

November 4, 2015 – Introduced by Senators L. TAYLOR, BEWLEY, VINEHOUT, C. LARSON, RISSER, RINGHAND, HARSDORF, LASSA and HARRIS DODD, cosponsored by Representatives MEYERS, KOLSTE, HORLACHER, GOYKE, TRANEL, SARGENT, MILROY, DANOU, HEBL, OHNSTAD, KESSLER, PETRYK, BROSTOFF, MURSAU, JORGENSEN, KLEEFISCH, THIESFELDT, BERCEAU, BALLWEG, ZAMARRIPA, HINTZ, SPREITZER, POPE, WACHS, C. TAYLOR and SINICKI. Referred to Committee on Senate Organization.

1 **Relating to:** Proclaiming November as Native American Heritage Month in
2 Wisconsin.

3 Whereas, there are 566 federally recognized American Indian tribes, with each
4 tribe holding rich and unique cultures, traditions, histories, and practices that
5 contribute to the diversity and development of this nation; and

6 Whereas, the United States Census Bureau has reported that over 5,000,000
7 Americans claim Native American identity, and more than 53,000 Wisconsinites
8 identify as Native American; and

9 Whereas, there are 11 sovereign nations of Wisconsin, including the Bad River
10 Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians, the Forest County Potawatomi
11 Community, the Ho-Chunk Nation, the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior
12 Chippewa Indians, the Lac Du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians,
13 the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, the Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa
14 Community, the Oneida Nation, the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, the
15 St. Croix Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and the Stockbridge–Munsee Band of

1 Mohican Indians, comprising a sizeable and important demographic in the United
2 States; and

3 Whereas, Native American populations predate Wisconsin statehood by an
4 estimated 10,000 years, with archaeologists finding evidence of their past lives
5 across the state; and

6 Whereas, according to Benjamin Franklin, even the idea of our federal
7 government, in which certain powers were given to a central government and all
8 other powers reserved for the states, was borrowed from the system of government
9 used by the Iroquoian League of Nations; and

10 Whereas, Native Americans have influenced every facet of American life,
11 including their service as guides in the early exploration of this hemisphere, after
12 which their trails became the roads and railroads over which the settlers would
13 expand; half of our states having Native American names; and their impact on
14 agriculture, ecology, conservation, education, sports, and our core value of respect for
15 mankind; and

16 Whereas, Native Americans have thrived in spite of unique historical
17 persecution, and their accomplishments, sacrifices, culture, and legacy should be
18 acknowledged; and

19 Whereas, our country took those affirmative steps in 1990, when then-
20 President George H. W. Bush declared November as National American Indian
21 Heritage Month, and this legislature has an opportunity to engage the public about
22 Native American history and issues and extend a bridge of understanding and
23 solidarity to Native nations; now, therefore, be it

