

VANESSA LOWERY BROWN, MEMBER
190TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

122 IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING
P.O. BOX 202190
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2190
PHONE: (717) 783-3822
FAX: (717) 772-2384

1435 NORTH 52ND STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19131
PHONE: (215) 879-6615
FAX: (215) 879-6616

E-MAIL: VBROWN@PAHOUSE.NET
WEBSITE: WWW.PAHOUSE.COM/BROWN



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: The Honorable Vanessa Lowery Brown 

DATE: October 3, 2011

RE: Co-Sponsorship of Legislation -- Resolution recognizing October 8, 2011 as Indigenous Peoples Day in Pennsylvania

Later today, I will be introducing a resolution recognizing October 8, 2011 as Indigenous Peoples Day in Pennsylvania.

As history teaches us, the first contacts between Pennsylvania's Indigenous Peoples and Europeans occurred in the 1630's. This is the period where the Colonial and Iroquois Cultures intersected in early American History as our founding fathers interacted with indigenous leaders and acknowledged certain indigenous principles. Today, within the great City of Philadelphia, more than 4,000 indigenous people live in an area of the City known to early Lenape settlers as Coaquonnock. Further, additional neighborhoods in the City such as Manayunk, Passyunk, and Wissahickon also reflect a strong indigenous origin.

Indigenous Peoples Day will recognize the influences of indigenous culture throughout our history. This day will also commemorate the contributions and resilience of indigenous people in our communities and will celebrate the preservation of their unique cultural heritage. With that said, I am honored to recognize and celebrate them on this day. If you would like to join me in co-sponsoring this resolution, please contact Takesha Latham as soon as possible in my office at (717) 783-3822 or via email at Tlatham@pahouse.net.