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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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MEMORANDUM

September 21, 2012

To: All House Members

From: Representative Vanessa Lowery Brown

Subject: Co-sponsorship-Congratulating and recognizing Pennsylvania's American Indian peoples and communities and recognizing the first Saturday in October of every year as "Indigenous Peoples Day" in Pennsylvania

Please join me in co-sponsoring a resolution to congratulate and recognize Pennsylvania's American Indian peoples and communities and recognize the first Saturday in October of every year as "Indigenous Peoples Day" in Pennsylvania

The American Indians have provided a wealth of heritage and history within the United States and specifically this Commonwealth. They have inhabited Pennsylvania dating back some 5,000 years. Former Secretary of the PA Historical and Museum Commission, Dr. George Donehoo, acknowledged that "No state in the entire nation is richer in Indian names or in fact Indian history than Pennsylvania."

Some of the great nations that inhabit and previously inhabited the territory known as Pennsylvania are the Lenape, Cherokee, Susquehanna, Unami, Minsi, Erie, Muscogee, Mohawk, Huron, Allegany, Shawnee, Susquehannock, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga and Seneca Indians, and the Wyandot, Chippewa, Mississauga and many others.

Some of our busiest highways such as Route 1, Route 40, Route 611 and Route 590 began as American Indian paths that were used for trade hunting. The American Indian culture has contributed to the agricultural development, medicinal discoveries, environmental preservation, commerce, governmental institutions and structures and many other facets of our country and state.

Should you wish to participate in recognizing these important contributions, please contact Wendy Haigood at WHaigood or 783-3822.