



State of Connecticut  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

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LEGISLATIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

February 22, 2013

Testimony in support of H.B. 5054, An Act Establishing Native American Month

Honorable Co-Chairmen, Senator Musto, Representative Jutila, and distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee;

My name is State Representative Ernest Hewett and I am here before you to testify in favor of House Bill 5054, An Act Establishing Native American Month. The purpose of this bill is to recognize the long overdue recognition of the Native Americans' contributions to our great State. It is imperative for us to acknowledge and honor their historical struggles that they faced when they were marginalized and discriminated against. It is our duty to raise awareness of their exceptional culture. Establishing the Native American Month would provide the public with educational opportunities to learn more about their history, culture and contributions to our State and Country. President Barack Obama declared November of 2011 as National Native American Month. In this Proclamation, the President wrote:

*From the Aleutian Islands to the Florida Everglades, American Indians and Alaska Natives have contributed immensely to our country's heritage. During National Native American Heritage Month, we commemorate their enduring achievements and reaffirm the vital role American Indians and Alaska Natives play in enriching the character of our Nation.*

*Native Americans stand among America's most distinguished authors, artists, scientists, and political leaders, and in their accomplishments, they have profoundly strengthened the legacy we will leave our children. So, too, have American Indians and Alaska Natives bravely fought to protect this legacy as members of our Armed Forces. As service members, they have shown exceptional valor and heroism on battlefields from the American Revolution to Iraq and Afghanistan. Native Americans have demonstrated time and again their commitment to advancing our common goals, and we honor their resolve in the face of years of marginalization and broken promises. My Administration recognizes the painful chapters in our shared history,*

*and we are fully committed to moving forward with American Indians and Alaska Natives to build a better future together.*

I would urge the committee to favorably consider this proposal to make the month of November the Native American Month in the State of Connecticut.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ernest Hewett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ernest Hewett