



OREGON SENATE DEMOCRATS

Salem, Oregon
Oregon State Legislature

PRESS RELEASE

May 18, 2021

CONTACT: Amanda Kraus, 503-986-1074

Amanda.Kraus@oregonlegislature.gov

Oregon Senate Approves Indigenous People's Day as an Official State Holiday

SALEM – The Oregon Senate approved House Bill 2526 today which will make the second Monday of October Indigenous Peoples' Day in Oregon.

"It is important that we honor and respect native people in Oregon including our tribes. By passing House Bill 2526, we can memorialize the contributions and culture of these communities and honor the lives of the individuals who are native to this land," said Senator Rob Wagner (D-Lake Oswego) who carried House Bill 2526. "Records of native Oregonians' culture and history were altered, misrepresented and harmed significantly by colonialism. This is a step forward to combat the impacts of those wrongs."

According to data from the University of Oregon, nearly 140,000 Oregonians are indigenous people from Central America and Mexico, and Oregon is also home to nine Confederated Tribes.

Celebrating Columbus Day has often brought reminders of pain and suffering experienced by native people. By dedicating this new state holiday, Oregonians will be encouraged to learn, grow and celebrate our state's native communities.

"Long before we called this land 'Oregon' it was home to many," said Senator Wagner. "By honoring our indigenous communities, we can recognize and learn from the harm native people experienced at the hands of settlers and also honor and promote the cultures that have been paramount in shaping this place we are lucky to call home."

Senate Bill 2526 passed the House on a 50-5 vote. Today, it passed the Senate with 22 "Aye" votes, seven senators voted against the measure. It now goes to the Governor for final approval.

###