

H.880: An act relating to Abenaki place names on State park signs



Representative Brian Cina
February 25, 2020

Legislative Intent

By adding Abenaki place names alongside colonial place names on State park signs, the State of Vermont intends to:

- Recognize that the State of Vermont exists on territory originally and currently inhabited by Abenaki people.
- Increase visibility and awareness of the Abenaki people and culture.
- Preserve and promote the Abenaki language.
- Honor the history, significance, and spirit of places.

Examples of Abenaki place names:

<u>Abenaki</u>	<u>Colonial</u>	<u>meaning of Abenaki name</u>
Odzhihozo	Rock Dunder	<i>"he who created himself"</i>
Bitawbakw	Lake Champlain	<i>"in between water"</i>
Winoski	Winooski	<i>"onion land"</i>
Mazipskoik	Missisquoi	<i>"place of flint"</i>
Wnekikwisibo	Otter Creek	<i>"otter river/creek"</i>
Kwenitekw	Connecticut River	<i>"long flow (river)"</i>
Kchi Pontekw	Bellows Falls	<i>"great falls"</i>
Tawipodiwajo, also Moziozagan	Camel's Hump	<i>"place to sit in mountain"</i>
Mozdebiwajo	Mount Mansfield	<i>"moosehead mountain"</i>
Gwenaden	Jay Peak	<i>"long mountain"</i>
Kaskaden	Mount Ascutney	<i>"wide mountain"</i>
Mategwasaden	Mount Philo	<i>"rabbit mountain"</i>

Benefits and costs of H.880

Recommended witnesses

Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs

Elnu Abenaki Tribe

Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation

Koasek Abenaki of the Koas

Missisquoi, St. Francis-Sokoki Band

Vermont Historical Society

Commissioner of Forest, Parks, and Recreation

Questions?

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