

Regarding H.556

As part of the DEI committee at the Quechee Club in Quechee Vermont, as well as throughout my adult life, I have taken pains to learn about the inequities of the past and those that are still going on. This bill is an opportunity and attempt to make life better for the Western Abenaki people and the Vermont legislature must embrace this opportunity by passing it. Recognizing them as the traditional land caretakers, as many other states have done with their specific native American people, lowers their costs and as the bill indicates will, "allow them to dedicate more of their financial resources to furthering their tribe-related activities." This fosters recognition of their heritage and growth of their community, which benefits us all.

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