

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Joint House Resolution

J.R.H. 4

Offered by Representatives Branagan of Georgia, Logan of Burlington, and Mrowicki of Putney

Joint resolution reaffirming support for the legislatively recognized Native American Indian tribes and bands of Vermont

Whereas, in 1 V.S.A. § 851(1), the General Assembly found that “[a]t least 1,700 Vermonters claim to be direct descendants of the several indigenous Native American peoples, now known as Western Abenaki tribes, who originally inhabited all of Vermont and New Hampshire, parts of western Maine, parts of southern Quebec, and parts of upstate New York for hundreds of years, beginning long before the arrival of Europeans,” and

Whereas, in 1 V.S.A. § 851(2), the General Assembly also found “ample archeological evidence that demonstrates that the Missisquoi and Cowasuck Abenaki were indigenous to and farmed the river floodplains of Vermont at least as far back as the 1100s A.D.,” and

Whereas, in 1 V.S.A. § 851(3), the General Assembly further found that the “Western Abenaki, including the Missisquoi, have a very definite and carefully maintained oral tradition that consistently references the Champlain [V]alley in western Vermont,” and

Whereas, 1 V.S.A. § 852(a) establishes the Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs “to recognize the historic and cultural contributions of Native Americans to Vermont,” and in 1 V.S.A. § 853(c) created a set of criteria for future State recognition of Native American Indian tribes and bands, and

Whereas, to date, the General Assembly has extended State recognition to the Elnu Abenaki tribe (1 V.S.A. § 853a), the Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk Abenaki Nation (1 V.S.A. § 854), the Koasek Abenaki of the Koas (1 V.S.A. § 855), and the Missisquoi, St. Francis-Sokoki band (1 V.S.A. § 856), *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly reaffirms its support for the legislatively recognized Native American Indian tribes and bands of Vermont, their geological legitimacy, and the system established in 1 V.S.A. chapter 23 for extending future State recognition of Native American Indian tribes and bands, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Commission on Native American Affairs.