

COUNTY COUNCIL OF HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND



Tony "G" Giangiordano
Council Vice President, Member, District C



Tuesday, February 27, 2024

House Bill 179, The Indigenous Peoples' Day
Rule of Interpretation and Replacement of Columbus Day

Dear Mr. Nino Mangione,

I am writing to express my opposition (UNF) to House Bill 179, the Indigenous Peoples' Day – Rule of Interpretation and Replacement of Columbus Day. I believe that this bill undermines the historical significance of Columbus Day and fails to address the complexity of our nation's history.

The proposed rule of interpretation in House Bill 179 could lead to confusion and misinterpretation of historical events. I acknowledge the importance of recognizing and honoring Indigenous Peoples' contributions and experiences, but I believe that replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day is not the appropriate solution. It is essential to acknowledge and learn from the past, rather than erasing or replacing elements of our history.

Columbus Day has been a federal holiday since 1937, commemorating Christopher Columbus's historic voyage to the Americas. Thus, this holiday represents an important part of American history and heritage. It is important to find ways to commemorate and learn from our history without erasing or diminishing the significance of important cultural and historical events.

While I fully support the recognition and celebration of Indigenous Peoples' Day as an opportunity to honor the rich cultures and contribution of Indigenous communities, I do not believe it should come at the expense of erasing other historical figures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony 'G' Giangiordano". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Tony "G" Giangiordano
Councilmember, District C