



Narragansett Indian Tribe

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Chief Sachem's Office

To Whom It May Concern:

As we are all aware, in the state of Rhode Island there are several "splinter groups and social clubs" that exist with the goal of receiving the same level of recognition and acknowledgement as the Narragansett Indian Tribe. These splinter groups and social clubs are not federally recognized because they have not gone through the comprehensive and fully vetted process to gain said recognition and acknowledgement. It is unreasonable to allow self-proclaimed recognition any sort of status as it would be a disservice to Narragansett Indian Tribe and the effort, the tribe went through to preserve our culture and fight for reciprocation from the state of Rhode Island that continues to this very day.

The Narragansett Indian Tribe has been able to maintain a tribal identity while dealing with a grueling process with the United States government that granted us federal recognition in 1983. It is this very process that made our tribe the only federally recognized Indian Tribe in the State of Rhode Island, which is why we are the only tribe afforded certain rights and privileges as a sovereign Indian nation.

We have seen posts on social media regarding the "nonsense about there only being one tribe in Rhode Island" and while we do not disvalue you and your feelings, we urge you to understand why it isn't nonsense. There are many organizations that carry the same feelings regarding there only being one federally recognized tribe and have tried to act on or on behalf of the Narragansett Indian Tribe, or to possess similar rights which are exclusive to the Narragansett Indian Tribe. These organizations include The Mashapaug Nahaganset Tribe, the Usquepaug Naheantick Nahaganset Tribe, the Ninigret Nehantick Nahaganset Tribe, the Pokanoket Tribe, the Northern-Narragansett Tribe, the Manissean, the Nemasket Nation of Rhode Island, the Pocasset Wampanoag Tribe of the Pokanoket Nation, the National Association for the Advancement of Indigenous People, and the Federation of Aboriginal Nations of America. None of these splinter clubs are, or have ever been, federally recognized Indian Tribes nor do they enjoy any type of sovereign status.

Attempting to perpetuate the idea that federal recognition should not matter is irresponsible as well as unacceptable. The federal recognition that the Narragansett Indian Tribe has received was done due a testimony of the preservation of a single tribal identity. We simply cannot accept or tolerate those who feel entitled to land that they have no claims or ties to. These are not "colonial standards" they are our rights and our identity. The abovementioned groups/cubs did not exist twenty years ago nor were they recognized by anyone. Claims on social media against federal recognition have been refuted and rebutted time and time again and will continue to be dismissed without merit. There is and only has ever been one and only federally recognized Indian Nation in the State of Rhode Island, and that is the Narragansett Indian Tribe. If there are any questions on Native Americans in the state of Rhode Island, contact Chief Sachem Anthony Dean Stanton of the Narragansett Indian Tribe.

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