

Carol DeSoto

From: Jesse L. Bungcayao
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 12:36 PM
To: Amanda Stewart; Bobby A. Rucci; Crystal Hunt; Gilbert "B.J." Bowling; Julie Losh; Julie M. Bryson; Kenberly L. Stephens; Maquita Irvin; Michelina Coates; Pearl Zimmerman; Reuben B. Collins, II; Thomasina Coates; Tomica Wood
Cc: Carol DeSoto; Erica Rizor; Deborah Hall; Mark Belton
Subject: FW: Mattawoman Creek - The historic meaning as a Piscataway woman

Good Afternoon,

Please find the below comment received after hours last night.

Thank you,

Jesse Lynn Bungcayao

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From: Troi Madison Newman <troinewman@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 30, 2021 5:40 PM
To: Jesse L. Bungcayao <BungcayJ@charlescountymd.gov>
Subject: Mattawoman Creek - The historic meaning as a Piscataway woman

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Hello Jesse L. Bungcayao,

My name is Troi Newman, and I am an enrolled tribal member of the Piscataway Conoy Tribe. I purposely waited until Today, September 30th, National Truth & Reconciliation Day, to email Mattawoman Watershed. Today, 09/30, Canada has chosen to create a National Holiday to honor and recognize the indigenous people, the native people, who they have overlooked and undermined since the beginning of colonization.

As a Piscataway member trying to address the issue of the Mattawoman Creek, we are being ignored, silenced, and told our voices do not matter. Some of my fellow tribal members right now are feeling angered, annoyed, hurt, disappointed, and they have every right to have those emotions. The issue deals directly with the Piscataway people being misrepresented and undermined in the history of Maryland, which is disrespectful to the state of Maryland's indigenous community. When the indigenous communities voice their concerns, issues, and opinions, we are always silenced, undercounted, and seen as "other" in this country.

The indigenous people of Maryland truly rely upon our native elders, culture, and historical landmarks to represent our community accurately and respectfully. Deciding to take away Mattawoman Creek, you are not only industrializing a deep-rooted historical residential community, in my community, my indigenous ancestors and unacceptably increasing their exposure to airport toxins and noise, but also degrading Mattawoman Creek, which is a critical, unacceptable impact on the fish nursery. When Governor Hogan declared American Indian Heritage Day on November 27th, 2020, it

was truly groundbreaking, and I could not be any more proud of my governor. Yet, the State of Maryland still chooses to ignore the true sovereignty of our native land. I am demanding that you all live in truth & reconciliation of our people; this is all we have left, and to take that way adds to the long historical value of making Native assimilate to white culture.

Mattawoman creek might not mean much to others, but unless your ancestors were birthing, harvesting, nurturing, and creating life before 1492, you would have a deeper understanding. Enough is enough; we are done accepting the way to the erasure of our community. Piscataway is still here and will always be. Eliminating Mattawoman creek eliminates us, and we are not going anywhere!

Best Regards,

Troi Newman

she/her/hers

ABA Registered Paralegal | Social Media

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