The State of Washington

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Washington is home to 29 federally recognized Indian Tribes, as well as out of state tribes with treaty reserved rights in Washington; and members and descendants of tribes from all over the country also reside in the state of Washington; and

WHEREAS, the many contributions and achievements of Native Americans have helped shape the social, political, environmental, and economic fabric of the state, while also enhancing freedom, prosperity, and cultural diversity; and

WHEREAS, Washington passed Substitute Senate Bill 5433, which mandates the teaching of tribal history, culture, and government in common schools, which will contribute greatly to improving school's history curriculum; and

WHEREAS, Washington is committed to strengthening the government to government relationships with Tribal Nations, and continues to work with tribal governments on issues of mutual concern; and

WHEREAS, Washington State has designated the Friday immediately following the fourth Thursday in November, a state legal and school holiday, known as Native American Heritage Day; and

WHEREAS, Washington joins other states across the nation in celebrating Native American Heritage Month, honoring the unique heritage of this continent's First People, and reaffirming the commitment to respect each tribe's sovereignty and identity;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the State of Washington, do hereby proclaim November 2015 as

Native American Heritage Month

in Washington State, and I urge the public to commemorate this month with appropriate programs and activities, and to celebrate November 27, 2015, as Native American Heritage Day.

Signed this 30th day of October, 2015

Governor Jay Inslee