

From: chiefdonstevens@comcast.net

Sent on: Friday, January 9, 2026 6:28:44 PM

To: 'Chief Brenda Gagne' <brenda.gagne@abenakination.com>; House Ethics Panel <HouseEthicsPanel@vtleg.gov>

CC: 'Roger Sheehan' <gitceedadann@gmail.com>; 'Shirly Hook' <shirly480@gmail.com>

Subject: [External] RE: New Evidence Demands Review of Vermont's State Recognition Process

[External]

Thank you Chief Brenda for providing some of the many examples of how Rep Headrick is harming Vermonters and his own constituents.

Greetings Ethic's Panel,

I would only add that having discussions, various points of view, or being passionate about your "cause" is not in itself an issue. The issue in my opinion is that Rep Headrick is using his position as a Vermont Legislator (not as an individual) to project some sort of authority over our ethnicity or legal status as Abenaki Indians who are also Vermont Citizens. Not only does he use inflammatory, racist, and derogatory language in the public about our people which isn't accurate; he goes out of his way to use his position as a Legislator to purposely affect other decisions being made against our people. This is evident by writing NH Legislators (as a legislative official from the State of Vermont) on pending legislation being considered in NH - which is outside of his legislative authority and none of his business. He is also helping to coordinate and bring people to the Canadian village of Odanak as their liaison? If that is not acting as their foreign agent in the US and an unethical use of legislative power, than I don't know what else is. There are laws about foreign entities and agents being used to affect politics within the United States aren't there?

The second major issue is that he is drafting legislation, not only harmful to the Vermont Abenaki by excluding us, but providing "legal status" to a foreign entity outside of the United States which is afforded only to Congress. Rep Headrick is trying to give legal affirmation that land within the United States is Odanak and Wolinak territory which is setting legal precedent for

future land claims. To further his work as Odanak's foreign agent in the United States; forcing and mandating museums, nonprofits, and other non-governmental institutions in Vermont to only get approval by a foreign entity before they can educate the public is unethical and also way outside of his authority as a Legislator.

Our Freedom of speech, Freedom of Religion, and the fact that we are legally recognized as Abenaki Indian Tribes by both State and Federal Agency's give us protection within the United States and Vermont that cannot just be ignored or wiped away because a Legislator decides that we are somehow "fake" and ignore our "legal" status as Abenaki Indians. He is definitely not working for the good of the Vermont Abenaki Citizens or tribes but in fact trying to harm us.

Just to prove a point: when Rep Headrick publicly states that there are no different "Canadian" and "American" Abenaki - that only Odanak and Wolinak are the "real" Abenaki, this is false. During the Revolutionary war that created American independence, Odanak and other Canadian Abenaki aligned with the British who fought against the Americans. Abenaki like my ancestors Chief Philip of the Coos (who was a whig) fought alongside the American Patriots against British forces and Odanak warriors. The Penobscot are also Abenaki who live in the United States who are a Federally recognized tribe. Rep Headrick is ignoring the fact that there is in fact separation between Abenaki people in the United States and Canada. He is either ignorant in regards to History or willfully ignoring it because it does not fit into Odanak and his agenda. Everything he is doing is not for the good of Vermont public citizens, it is for the benefit of Odanak and Wolinak only who are not even US tribes.

Waolowzi (Be Very Well),

Don Stevens, Chief
Nulhegan Band of the Coosuk - Abenaki Nation

Executive Director, AHA - Abenaki Helping Abenaki, Inc.
www.abenakitribe.org

Confidential Notice:

"This email is intended to be reviewed by only the intended recipient and may contain information that is privileged and/or confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any review, use, dissemination, disclosure or copying of this email and its attachments, if any, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please immediately notify the sender by return email and delete this email from your system."