

The Board of Directors and staff of the Indigenous Peyote Conservation Initiative want to express our sincere thanks to the office of Senator Wiener of California.

It was a truly unusual and deeply heartening and healing experience for a Native American organization to have a constructive and collaborative experience with a governmental process, respectful to the culture, history, concerns and specific recommendations of the Native peoples of this great land.

These issues are so complex! We strive in many ways to navigate toward a healthy future for our ecosystems and precious cultures, so there can be a history made for our grandchildren that is honoring of the way our prayers have always been for them.

Peyote is the primary medicine we have left to support us in addressing the post-colonial issues of treaty breaches resulting in loss of land, cultural and traditional knowledge, and the related ravaging effects of alcoholism, addiction, suicide and 10x the rate of murder of women in indigenous communities.

We need allies such as Senator Wiener help ensure the efforts to make consciousness altering medicines available to everyone for healing do not inhibit or neglect the Native American sovereignty movements, sovereign medicine and the Native American Church's capacity to take care of their sacrament, native to this continent as they are, Thank you for supporting our capacity to take responsibility and direct our biocultural conservation and the legal protections that we do have left.

Peyote conservation is something the Native American Church and Indigenous ceremonial organizations are stepping up to take responsibility for, as an expression of indigenous sovereignty. It is important this process is not interrupted. To discover more about our strategies and how to support them you can access www.IPCI.Life or email us at info@IPCI.Life.

Sometimes people with a deeply western mindset think if we legalize peyote it will lead to the ability for people to cultivate it and that will lead to conservation. This is an understandable point of view. We respectfully have a different analysis. Conservation is not simply an equation of plants to people – it is a cultural revitalization and issue of reconnection, community self-empowerment for the indigenous people of this land. Additional legalization will also lead to overharvesting of the small native populations in the Rio Grande River valley in south Texas – the only local population in the United States - already suffering from a black market and improper harvest. Just this week we are reminded of the pressure on the remaining supply of Peyote, as non-native people were arrested for illegally purchasing and attempting to transport a large quantity of Peyote out of Texas to an undisclosed location.

The future of the human community is fragile, as it strives to achieve healing and unity and respectful alliances. We are grateful we have lawmakers such as Senator Wiener who are willing to honor the Native American Church's sovereign rights and responsibilities to direct how the future of this precious medicine unfolds.