



Call to Action to Support Indigenous Communities

(Adapted with permission from [Ecotrust](#). This is a living document that will continue to evolve over time.)

The sovereignty, wellbeing, cultures, and languages of Indigenous peoples are rooted in their relationships with their homelands. These lands and waters are not symbolic places, they are living relatives and remain precious to the Native communities who continue to care for them today. Everyone in the United States lives on Indigenous land. With that, comes a shared responsibility to treat these places with the respect and care they deserve and to steward them well for future generations.

Traditional land acknowledgements are often offered with good intentions, but they can flatten complex histories and overlook the ongoing impacts of colonization that Indigenous communities face. Rather than relying on statements alone, SOFSA invites you to honor Indigenous peoples by taking concrete action in support of their sovereignty, leadership, and cultural flourishing.

We ask that you activate your heart and mind by taking action in the following ways:

- 1) Thanksgiving:** In your everyday life, make a practice of showing gratitude for all of creation and the many gifts Mother Nature gives us.
- 2) Land Rights:** Give land back to Indigenous peoples. Include language in land trust agreements granting rights for traditional practices including foraging, hunting, and fishing.
- 3) Environmental Stewardship:** Vigorously protect the environment and all of nature's creations.
- 4) Sovereignty:** Insist that the United States respect Indigenous sovereignty and uphold its treaty responsibilities. Seek to re-Indigenize your own perspectives and honor those who have cared for the land for hundreds of generations.
- 5) Self-Education:** Inform yourself about the history that impacts Indigenous communities, such as the "Two Row Treaty" and the concept of coming together with a "Good Mind".
- 6) Civic Engagement:** Elect officials and judges who understand Indigenous cultures, relationships, governments, law, and treaties – and hold them accountable to their responsibilities.
- 7) Showing Up:** Support thriving Native communities by attending public events, frequenting Native-run businesses, and offering your time and talents to Native causes.
- 8) Rejecting Stereotypes:** Challenge and reject all stereotypes about Indigenous people.
- 9) Accurate Histories:** Insist that our children and grandchildren are taught accurate information about the histories, cultures, and contemporary lives of Indigenous peoples in our school systems.
- 10) Solidarity:** Recognize the responsibility that we all share in repairing past and present harms by acknowledging our common history as inhabitants of Mother Earth.
- 11) Collective Awareness:** Share this call-to-action and other learnings with friends, family, colleagues, and neighbors to continually build awareness across communities about the issues facing Indigenous people.