

**From:** [Madeleine Mineau](#)  
**To:** [Shannon Ames](#); [Maryalice Fischer](#)  
**Subject:** Handbook revision comment  
**Date:** Thursday, August 29, 2024 10:36:15 AM

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Hi Shannon and Maryalice,  
I apologize that this comment is quite late but appreciate you considering it nonetheless.

I think that giving greater consideration to native American and tribal input in the certification and recertification process is a positive update to the LIHI certification process. However, I did want to bring up a potential issue or conflict that I want to make sure LIHI will be prepared to address. In our region (NH and VT) there is an ongoing conflict debating the legitimacy of native American groups between the federally recognized Abenaki First Nations and other local groups that are recognized by the State of Vermont and affiliated groups in NH. I will provide some media articles related to this issue below for context. My concern is that I do not want to get involved in such a dispute or to be asked to determine which native American groups have legitimate standing to provide input on LIHI certifications. The situation between the local groups and the federally recognized tribe seems tricky and I would not want to be inserted into the debate. I trust that LIHI will develop a process to address such issues or conflict should they arise.

<https://www.nhpr.org/2023-08-08/why-vermont-tribes-new-hampshire-groups-might-claim-to-be-abenaki-without-ever-proving-ancestry>

<https://www.nhpr.org/nh-news/2024-07-10/as-a-nh-group-plans-an-abenaki-cultural-center-first-nation-leaders-have-questions>

<https://www.nhpr.org/2024-03-26/abenaki-nations-call-for-vermont-to-reconsider-state-recognition-is-getting-mixed-response>

<https://www.nhpr.org/nh-news/2023-05-22/review-of-genealogies-other-records-fails-to-support-local-leaders-claims-of-abenaki-ancestry>

Thank you for considering this input.

Madeleine Mineau