

These Truths We Hold

Letter To Our Senators

Good afternoon,

I hope you are very well today. I would like to express how grateful I am for your hard work and dedication to our communities. American safety is very important, and it takes hard working citizens like you to ensure that we remain shielded from harm's way.

I would like to discuss a subject that is close to my heart, my Acadian culture. As a native Acadian, I am very concerned for the preservation of our culture, our heritage, and our history. America is my home. The preservation of America's historic peoples, cultures, and constitutional foundations is a matter of national continuity, public stability, and historical responsibility.

For the past seven years, I have remained devoted to the study of slavery, war, corruption, genocide, forced migration, cultural assimilation, and historical erasure. This strenuous work required years of research, documentation, and analysis. It revealed recurring historical patterns that continue to form modern society and reinforced the importance of preserving history before it is forgotten.

The Acadian story remains one of North America's least understood histories. Families were displaced and languages faded. Entire generations were gradually absorbed into English society through cultural assimilation. Those consequences remain visible today. I am one of many descendants who no longer speaks the language of my ancestors because this heritage was diminished over generations. I do however, speak English and Spanish.

Native American communities have received important legal recognition for their unique historical circumstances. This recognition reflects an acknowledgment of historical displacement and cultural loss. Acadian descendants have received far less public recognition despite having their own history of forced relocation, assimilation, slavery and cultural erasure. Our history deserves to stand within the American historical record, yet our story has yet to receive national recognition. No formal apology by the United States has ever been given to the Acadian natives.

Today the Acadian population remains small. Many descendants continue working to preserve a heritage that has received comparatively little public attention. At the same time, the undocumented population within the United States exceeds the Acadian population many times over. This demographic reality presents serious questions regarding cultural preservation, national identity, and the long-term continuity of smaller historic American communities.

One of the most persistent misunderstandings surrounding Acadian descendants is the assumption that we are simply descendants of colonists or participants in systems of oppression. Our historical experience is more complex than this modern characterization

allows. Forced relocation, displacement, and generations of assimilation formed our communities and permanently altered our cultural identity. This history deserves recognition, rather than oversimplification. Importantly, never racism or cultural erasure.

America now faces significant public policy challenges involving border security, unlawful immigration, organized crime, human trafficking, and increasing political polarization. These issues extend beyond politics. They involve national sovereignty, constitutional governance, public safety, and the preservation of America's historic communities, like the Acadians.

For these reasons, I do support a temporary national moratorium on immigration. A sovereign nation possesses both the authority and the responsibility to periodically evaluate whether its immigration policies continue to serve the long-term interests of its citizens. A temporary pause would provide us with the opportunity to strengthen border security, restore public confidence, reduce political tension, evaluate immigration systems, and preserve the nation's cultural and constitutional foundations before expanding them further.

America has always demonstrated its greatest strength when confronting difficult realities with honesty rather than avoidance. Historical preservation, lawful government, secure borders, and cultural continuity are not opposing principles. They are complementary responsibilities. The nation now has an opportunity to restore stability, preserve its diverse historical communities, and ensure that future generations inherit an America that remembers its past while responsibly preparing for its future.

Thank you.

Kindest regards,
Dannielle Courchene-Cowdrey