

Tyson Webster
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United Nations Statement

Posoh Mawaw new weyak mohkaman Nihwihswan Tyson Webster mamacetaw nihwiswan Anaemetek. Hello everyone my name is Tyson Webster I am a member of the Menominee Indian tribe of Wisconsin.

The Menominee Nation, like most native Americans, are culturally endangered due to the colonization of the Americas. We went through a period of time that lasted decades, where the United States tried to completely extinguish our culture. The United States failed to accomplish this goal, but the effects of their actions are still felt to this day.

We have little cultural knowledge, most of it lost because we were made to feel ashamed to be Menominee. People would reject their own heritage and instead embrace assimilation into the United States.

This caused a lot of our cultural knowledge to die because our people were embarrassed to embrace our culture. With each passing generation our knowledge continues to dwindle. My generation is the one that needs to step up and help make a difference to prevent the extinction of my people.

What little cultural knowledge that is available to us comes mostly from elders and cultural sites. However, our elders are dying and our cultural sites are being put at risk from environmental destruction.

One of the newest threats facing the Menominee Nation is the proposal of the back forty mine. Our sites will be directly affected if the mine is approved, causing even more damage to our already jeopardized culture. The mine poses a threat not only to my future, but also to the future of my nation. I ask that the organizations represented here stand in solidarity with us against the Back-Forty Mine.