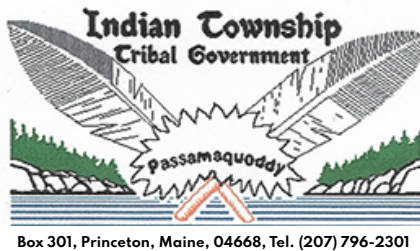


Tribal Governor  
*William Nicholas, Sr.*

Lt. Governor  
*Darrell Newell*

Tribal Representative  
*Rena Newell*



Tribal Council:

*Matthew Dana II  
Sonja Dana  
Elizabeth Neptune  
Alexander Nicholas I  
Joseph Socobasin  
Mali Tomah-Pride*

## **Testimony of Vice Chief Darrell Newell of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkmikuk, Indian Township**

*In Support of LD 585*

### **“An Act To Enhance Tribal-State Collaboration, To Revise the Tax Laws Regarding the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Passamaquoddy Tribe, and the Penobscot Nation and To Authorize Off-track Betting Facilities and Federally Recognized Indian Tribes to Conduct Sports Wagering”**

Thursday, February 17, 2022

Woliwon    Kulasikulpa    Woli spuswiw  
Komac      Nulasweltum    Gaseltimaki  
Ktolawestumlinya

Greetings Committee Chairs Senator Carney, Representative Harnett, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Darrell Newell, I am a 63-year Member of the Passamaquoddy Tribe. I am the Vice Chief of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkmikuk, Indian Township. I also have the honor of serving as a commissioner on the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations. I also sit on the Board of Directors of the Wabanaki Alliance.

Woliwon, Thank you for allowing me to address you today in support of LD 585.

Since 1980, there have been many pressure points that have caused strain in the tribal-state relations. I believe that if we had a functional tribal-state relationship with mutual interest in implementing the true intent of the Settlement Act, many amendments would already have been adopted.

As amended, this bill would not amend the Settlement Act. Amending the Settlement Act is the Tribes' sincere and absolute long-term objective.

However, we recognize that finding common ground with the state on policies outside of the Settlement Act can provide significant opportunity to the Tribes as well.

The amended version of LD 585 represents true progress in tribal-state relations in three areas: tribal-state consultation; taxation, and economic development.

These issues recognize that tribal governments and the state government have a significant mutual interest in improved tribal-state communication and in improving the economy of rural Maine.

Tribal and state representatives negotiated the amendment to LD 585 over many months and countless hours. The amendment represents progress but much work remains, even if it becomes law.

Regarding tribal-state relations, the amendment to LD 585 would establish legal channels of communication between our Tribal Nations and state agencies. It would significantly build and normalize the working relationship between state and tribal governments.

The amendment would also provide the Passamaquoddy Tribe with tax benefits similar to what tribes and their citizens enjoy elsewhere in Indian country. These benefits will enhance the Tribe's ability to collect revenue to fund government services.

Finally, the amendment to LD 585 offers significant opportunity to promote rural economic development in Maine through sports betting.

The amendment aims to promote diversity in Maine's gaming market. It will ensure that Maine's gaming industry does not continue to be controlled by out of state casino interests that send the majority of their revenues to out of state corporate coffers.

Our hope is that the majority of revenue earned from sports betting in Maine will stay here and will promote rural economic development in tribal and non-tribal communities in Northern Maine.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully urge you to support the amendment to LD 585.

Kci Woliwon, Thank You.