

ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
17th Legislative Day
Thursday, March 16, 2023

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The House met according to adjournment and was called to order by the Speaker.

Prayer by Vice Chief Richard Silliboy, Mi'kmaq Nation.

National Anthem by Lauren Stevens, Passamaquoddy Tribe.

Pledge of Allegiance.

At this point, a message came from the Senate borne by Senator DAUGHTRY of that Body, proposing a Joint Convention of both branches of the Legislature to be held in the Hall of the House at 10:45 in the morning for the purpose of extending to the Honorable Chief Clarissa E. Sabattis, Chief of the Houlton Band of Maliseets, the Honorable Chief Rena Newell, Governor of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point, the Honorable Chief Kirk Francis, Chief of the Penobscot Nation, the Honorable Chief Edward Peter Paul, Chief of the Aroostook Band of Micmacs, and the Honorable Chief William J. Nicholas, Sr., Governor of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township, an invitation to attend the Joint Convention and to make such communication as pleases them.

Thereupon the House voted to concur in the proposal for a Joint Convention to be held at 10:45 in the morning and the Speaker appointed Representative TERRY of Gorham to convey this message to the Senate.

The Journal of Tuesday, March 14, 2023 was read and approved.

The following items were taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

In accordance with House Rule 519 and Joint Rule 213, the following items:

Recognizing:

Emma Burr, of Pittsfield, a student at Maine Central Institute, who won the 2023 Class B Girls Indoor Track State Championship in the 55 Meter Hurdles Event. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 183)

Presented by Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield.

Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

Subsequently, this Expression of Legislative Sentiment was **PASSED** and sent for concurrence.

Recognizing:

Emma Burr, of Pittsfield, a student at Maine Central Institute, who won the 55 Meter Hurdles, 55 Meter Dash and the 200 Meter Events at the Kennebec Valley Athletic Conference Class B Girls Indoor Track Championship. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 184)

Presented by Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield.

Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

Subsequently, this Expression of Legislative Sentiment was **PASSED** and sent for concurrence.

Recognizing:

Shalomi Goeway, of Pittsfield, a student at Maine Central Institute, who won the High Jump Event at the Kennebec Valley Athletic Conference Class B Girls Indoor Track Championship. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 185)

Presented by Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield.

Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

Subsequently, this Expression of Legislative Sentiment was **PASSED** and sent for concurrence.

Recognizing:

Owen Moore, of Pittsfield, a student at Maine Central Institute, who won the Shot Put Event at the Kennebec Valley Athletic Conference Class B Boys Indoor Track Championship. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 186)

Presented by Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield.

Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

Subsequently, this Expression of Legislative Sentiment was **PASSED** and sent for concurrence.

Recognizing:

Isaac Keresey, of Pittsfield, a student at Maine Central Institute, who won the Class B State Wrestling Championship in the 160-pound Weight Class. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 187)

Presented by Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield.

Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

Subsequently, this Expression of Legislative Sentiment was **PASSED** and sent for concurrence.

Subsequently, Representative TERRY of Gorham reported that she had delivered the message with which she was charged.

Recognizing:

Isaac Keresey, of Pittsfield, a student at Maine Central Institute, who won the 800 Meter Event at the Kennebec Valley Athletic Conference Class B Boys Indoor Track Championship and the Class B Wrestling Championship in the 160-pound Weight Class. We extend our congratulations and best wishes; (HLS 188)

Presented by Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield.
Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.
READ.

Subsequently, this Expression of Legislative Sentiment was **PASSED** and sent for concurrence.

Recognizing:

the Maine Central Institute Girls Indoor Track Team, of Pittsfield, which won the Kennebec Valley Athletic Conference Class B Championship. We extend our congratulations and best wishes; (HLS 189)

Presented by Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield.
Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.
READ.

Subsequently, this Expression of Legislative Sentiment was **PASSED** and sent for concurrence.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The following matters, in the consideration of which the House was engaged at the time of adjournment Tuesday, March 14, 2023, had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by House Rule 502.

Expression of Legislative Sentiment Recognizing the Maine Central Institute eSports Team, of Pittsfield (HLS 20)

TABLED - January 17, 2023 (Till Later Today) by Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield.
PENDING - **PASSAGE.**

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Pittsfield, Representative Collamore.

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise today to recognize the incredible accomplishments of the MCI athletes in the KVIC and State Champions in the areas of indoor track, wrestling and esports. I've had the great pleasure of watching many of these young people grow up in our community and I'm very happy to be able to recognize them here today. Congratulations again. Thank you.

Subsequently, this Expression of Legislative Sentiment was **PASSED** and sent for concurrence.

Expression of Legislative Sentiment Recognizing Julia Pike, of Carmel

(HLS 93)

TABLED - March 2, 2023 (Till Later Today) by Representative THORNE of Carmel.

PENDING - **PASSAGE.**

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Carmel, Representative Thorne.

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to rise today and recognize Julia Pike, who is the 2023 Carmel, Maine, Spirit of America Foundation Tribute recipient. Of all awards that are given throughout our State, this is probably the one that is the most unsung when it comes to how local people make a big difference throughout their community.

Julia Pike is a veteran of the United States Navy. She served as Deputy Clerk for the Town of Carmel for over 20 years and continues to serve the Town of Carmel as Town Meeting Moderator, Sextant and Warden of Elections. She has belonged to organizations of the Order of the Eastern Star, Daughters of the American Revolution, American Legion, Hermon Alumni Association and is an original founding member of the Carmel Historical Society.

On a personal note, I moved to Carmel in 1995 when I was in the United States Air Force. I met Julia at the town office when I was doing town office things. I later met her as a member of the American Legion Post 107, Etna/Carmel. And, thanks to Julia, I am a life-long member of the Carmel Historical Society. And today, we sing the unsung hero of Julia Pike from Carmel. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Subsequently, this Expression of Legislative Sentiment was **PASSED** and sent for concurrence.

ORDER

On motion of Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 771) (Cosponsored by President JACKSON of Aroostook and Representatives: ANDREWS of Paris, BOYER of Poland, DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, MOONEN of Portland, Senators: BRAKEY of Androscoggin, CARNEY of Cumberland)

**JOINT RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING
THE 2023 STATE OF THE TRIBES**

WHEREAS, the Wabanaki People, People of the Dawnland, including the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Mi'kmaq Nation, the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkomikuk, the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik and the Penobscot Nation, have lived in present-day Maine since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, the Wabanaki People have been the stewards of the land and natural resources, while making significant economic, social and cultural contributions, including the participation of representatives to the Legislature since statehood; and

WHEREAS, the Wabanaki tribal nations addressed the Legislature in a historic State of the Tribes address on March 11, 2002; and

WHEREAS, this State of the Tribes address builds upon that work and serves as an opportunity to gain critical understanding of the continuing efforts to achieve a more just and equitable relationship; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize the inherent dignity and rights of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, the Mi'kmaq Nation, the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkomikuk, the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik and the Penobscot Nation; and be it further

RESOLVED: That We recognize March 16, 2023 as a historic State of the Tribes address at the Legislature.

READ and ADOPTED.

Sent for concurrence.

Under suspension of the rules, members were allowed to remove their jackets.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH.**

At this point, the Senate came and a Joint Convention was formed.

In Convention

The President of the Senate, the Honorable Troy D. Jackson, in the Chair.

The Convention was called to order by the Chair.

At this point, Lauren Stevens of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkomikuk performed the Welcome Song.

On motion of Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, it was

ORDERED, that a message be sent to the Honorable Jared F. Golden, United States Representative; the Honorable Andrew M. Mead, Associate Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court; and the Honorable Rick E. Lawrence, Associate Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, inviting them to attend the Joint Convention of the two branches of the Legislature now assembled in the Hall of the House for the purpose of reporting on the State of the Tribes in Maine.

The Chair appointed the following Members to deliver the message:

The Sen. from Cumberland, Senator NANGLE
The Sen. from Penobscot, Senator BALDACCI
The Sen. from Androscoggin, Senator BRAKEY
The Rep. from Boothbay, Representative STOVER
The Rep. from Bath, Representative PAULHUS
The Rep. from Saco, Representative COPELAND
The Rep. from South Portland, Representative DHALAC
The Rep. from Lewiston, Representative ABDI
The Rep. from Wales, Representative GREENWOOD
The Rep. from Lebanon, Representative ADAMS
The Rep. from Standish, Representative POMERLEAU
The Rep. from Presque Isle, Representative UNDERWOOD
The Rep. from Harrison, Representative RISEMAN

Subsequently, Senator NANGLE, for the Committee, reported that the Committee had delivered the message with which it was charged and that the Honorable Jared F. Golden, United States Representative; the Honorable Andrew M. Mead, Associate Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court; and the Honorable Rick E. Lawrence, Associate Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court would attend forthwith.

At this point, the Chair welcomed the Honorable Jared F. Golden, United States Representative; the Honorable Andrew M. Mead, Associate Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court; and the Honorable Rick E. Lawrence, Associate Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court to the Joint Convention.

On motion of Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, it was

ORDERED, that a message be sent to the Honorable Clarissa Sabattis, Chief of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians; the Honorable Rena Newell, Chief of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik; the Honorable Kirk Francis, Chief of the Penobscot Nation; the Honorable Edward Peter Paul, Chief of the Mi'kmaq Nation; and the Honorable William Nicholas, Sr., Chief of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkomikuk, inviting them to attend the Joint Convention of the two branches of the Legislature now assembled in the Hall of the House for the purpose of reporting on the State of the Tribes in Maine and extending to them an invitation to attend and make such communication as they are pleased to make.

The Chair appointed the following Members to deliver the message:

The Sen. from Cumberland, Senator CARNEY
The Sen. from Cumberland, Senator BAILEY
The Sen. from Penobscot, Senator LYFORD
The Rep. from Portland, Representative MOONEN
The Rep. from South Portland, Representative RECKITT
The Rep. from Cumberland, Representative MORIARTY
The Rep. from Biddeford, Representative SHEEHAN
The Rep. from Auburn, Representative LEE
The Rep. from Falmouth, Representative KUHN
The Rep. from Skowhegan, Representative POIRIER
The Rep. from Paris, Representative ANDREWS
The Rep. from Hampden, Representative HAGGAN
The Rep. from Rumford, Representative HENDERSON
The Rep. from the Passamaquoddy Tribe, Rep. DANA

Subsequently, Senator CARNEY, for the Committee, reported that the Committee had delivered the message with which it was charged and that the Honorable Clarissa Sabattis, Chief of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians; the Honorable Rena Newell, Chief of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik; the Honorable Kirk Francis, Chief of the Penobscot Nation; the Honorable Edward Peter Paul, Chief of the Mi'kmaq Nation; and the Honorable William Nicholas, Sr., Chief of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkomikuk would attend forthwith.

At this point, the Chair welcomed the Honorable Clarissa Sabattis, Chief of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians; the Honorable Rena Newell, Chief of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik; the Honorable Kirk Francis, Chief of the Penobscot Nation; the Honorable Edward Peter Paul, Chief of the Mi'kmaq Nation; and the Honorable William Nicholas, Sr., Chief of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkomikuk to the Joint Convention.

The Chair welcomed the Honorable Clarissa Sabattis, Chief of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, to the rostrum. Chief Sabattis then addressed the Convention.

Chief **SABATTIS**: (The Chief gave a greeting in her native language). Good morning. My name is Clarissa Sabattis and I'm Wolastoqiyik or Maliseet and we are the people of the Meduxnekeag.

I'm the Chief of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians and on behalf of our nation, I offer our gratitude to Madam Speaker Talbot Ross, Senate President Jackson, House Minority Leader Faulkingham, and Senate Minority Leader Stewart for the invitation to address this Joint Convention today. I also extend that gratitude to their staff and all who have worked so hard to make this possible and to those who made it a priority to attend this historic event. I'd also like to recognize an amazing partner joining us today, Congressman Golden. This is the very first time all four tribes have delivered a State of the Tribes address in the history of this great State of Maine.

I'd like to say thank you to our elders who have offered opening prayers, asking that we all speak and listen with good intentions. I also want to recognize our drummers and singers for being here today and to start us off in a good way, filling these halls with our language, with the echo of Mother Earth's heartbeat. And speaking of our language, in my travels around the State, I see many Wabanaki place names. These names always make me feel connected; connected to the waters, to the land, but most importantly to our ancestors who named them. While we still encounter Maine citizens who don't know that there are tribes here, these place names are a reminder of the first peoples to inhabit this territory. We are not a long-forgotten society. We are strong, we are resilient and, most importantly, we are still here.

I feel that our cultural tourism efforts are a way to teach and celebrate who we are as a people and share it with those who call Maine home as well as those who come from away. There's nothing I love more than to enter Maine's borders and be greeted not only by the welcome sign but by one that says Home of the Wabanaki Nations.

This is also why I support LR 1566, "An Act to Strengthen the Teaching of Wabanaki Studies in Maine Schools." LD 291 that was passed in 2001 required Maine history to be taught in Maine schools. It was introduced by the Honorable Donna Loring, who at the time was a Penobscot Legislative Representative. Teaching the true history of Wabanaki, or the People of the Dawn, is so important and this bill will help ensure the intentions of LD 291 are fully recognized here in Maine. At times, history can be uncomfortable, but ignoring it does not make it go away. Our youngest citizens in Maine should have the opportunity to understand the incredible history of resilience of our Wabanaki nations told from a Wabanaki perspective.

I also support LR 1184, "An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act"; that's a mouthful. This is sponsored by Speaker Talbot Ross. We need the space to self-determine our own destinies. While our right to exercise

our jurisdiction was never removed, the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act also encourages us to negotiate jurisdictional agreements with the State of Maine. Passage of this bill is a step in the direction towards self-determination. As leaders, we all know the importance of having the ability to make changes for the betterment of our citizens and we will always work with you to protect our shared resources for everyone's benefit. Our Maliseet borders are within Aroostook County, which currently ranks 11th in health outcomes and 12th for health factors out of the 16 counties in Maine. One of those important factors that impact our health outcomes is the socioeconomic status of those living in Aroostook County. Our goal is to create local jobs and economic growth for our tribe and our neighboring towns and county.

Our tribal government is one of the largest employers in our area, employing tribal and nontribal citizens. Not only do we infuse funds into the local economy through employment, but we also believe in supporting local and family-owned businesses. Cultural tourism will also be another economic development opportunity to further us on the path towards economic independence, which is essential for fostering thriving communities. We are currently in the hospitality business, owning and operating our Wilderness Pines Campground that offers a beautiful lodge and cabins with other amenities. This has become a wedding destination and we are currently working on creating spaces where people can have cultural camping experiences. We also own a motel that is currently being remodeled. It's called Wolastoq Inn and Suites and both are located in northern Maine.

The Governor's bill that provided the tribes with mobile sports wagering exclusivity has the potential to be a wonderful economic tool. It can provide funds to fill gaps in underfunded tribal government programs and offer needed resources to support economic growth and diversity in our area. It is my hope that the process will be expeditious and the proposed regulations will not hamstring the tribe's ability to find a partner and have success. With licensing fees and 10% of adjusted gross wagering receipts coming back to the State of Maine, our success is your success.

Our tribe is currently working on setting up our very first court in partnership with the Penobscot Nation. This court will at first only focus on addressing child support enforcement. Passage of LR 1184 would also help clear the way for us to work towards a fully-operational court, exercising our jurisdiction to the fullest extent allowed under the law and creating equity among the tribes in Maine.

I also support the Indian Child Welfare Act bill sponsored by Senator Bailey. It doesn't currently have a title but we've been working with the AG's office. Our Maliseet children are our greatest resource and they hold our future in their hands. It was only 25 years ago that the State was removing our children at a troubling rate, more than 10%, and devastating our community. This Legislature will have the opportunity to pass an Indian child welfare bill to help keep our families together and make them stronger and I urge you to support it.

Food sovereignty is a priority that our tribal nation has also been hyper-focused on since the pandemic. When we looked around to assess the needs that there may be that we could truly impact, feeding our people was top priority. Meeting this basic human need is a determinant of all of our health and wellbeing. With the help of our wonderful staff, community and partners, we have been successful in starting up a food pantry, farming some of our own land that typically is leased to farmers, providing the tools and the knowledge to our citizens on how to grow and process their own foods, and this is just the beginning.

We are engaging our youth in this process. From planting and growing to developing a food sovereignty plan, we need to engage our younger generation and model the way. Again, the ability to exercise our jurisdiction will fill a gap that we experience on the path to realizing food sovereignty. The ability to hunt and fish under our own authority without the need to issue Maine licenses is another inequity created by this 1980 settlement language, with only two of our four tribes that can exercise this inherent right to hunt and fish on their own lands without interference.

COVID has also highlighted other needs. Our Tribal administration and our Maliseet Health and Wellness Center and other departments were quick to meet emerging needs of the pandemic in partnership with State and federal agencies. But the pandemic presented unique challenges for citizens with substance use disorder and those needing behavioral health services. Our behavioral health program was swift to problem solve and do all they could to ensure delivery of needed services and this required restructuring and growth to meet the ongoing need and emerging needs as a result of the pandemic. With the partnership of Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness, who serves all of our tribes, we are seeing the constant growth of behavioral health and substance use services that are grounded in our Wabanaki life ways. Their services reach beyond our borders and meet our citizens where they are. The issue of substance use is not just tribal. We have a shared responsibility with you to address this epidemic. We are all on this path together.

The Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians is one of eight Wolastoqiyik or Maliseet First Nations and we continue to inhabit our traditional territory of Wolastoq or St. John Watershed, which includes the northeastern portion of Maine into New Brunswick. Our ancestors have inhabited the land along these rivers and waterways for time immemorial. Being a riverine people, water has always been at the center of our existence, from sustenance to ceremony. Land ownership was not our way, but in today's world, it is a way to ensure existence of our nation and exercise stewardship. There is a word in our language and it's pronounced *dilnabamic*. It means all my relations. It is our belief that all of our relations reach beyond our human family and envelope the earth clans, the four-legged, the air clan and the water clan. While we have adapted over the years to changing environment, we still believe that the water and land is key to survival and remains sacred. There is a relationship of reciprocity that has become unbalanced and it is our duty as stewards of these lands and all of our relations that inhabit it.

Our tribe works collaboratively with the conservation district, regional Maine DEP office, USDA and NRCS as part of an ongoing watershed effort to control erosion, with a focus on agriculture. We have also been working on restoring the aquatic habitat in the Meduxnekeag since 2011, with our latest project in partnership with the Town of Houlton to replace failing culverts. This is just a couple of examples of the collaborative work taking place. While some of our methods of stewardship have evolved in contemporary times, it remains our responsibility to adapt and overcome obstacles to restoring the ecosystem and our traditional lands to improve the livelihood of all that inhabit them. This is not just a responsibility of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians. This is a shared responsibility of all of us in this room. All of us that live in this beautiful State.

I look forward to standing beside you all to find ways to fulfill the shared duty of reciprocity and stewardship for the future of our relatives. We do not own these lands; we only borrow them from our future generations.

I would like to thank everyone on both sides of the aisle for their meaningful engagement and willingness to come to the table to modernize the Settlement Act. It was enacted at a time when the rest of the nation was making a shift from an era of tribal termination to supporting the self-determination of tribal nations. The State of Maine took a step backwards and this has remained for decades. Our resilience has helped us build complex governmental infrastructures to serve our citizens despite having to live with the unintended consequences of this law. And as some of you have heard or read from the Harvard Report, self-governance policies and self-determination have fostered exceptional economic growth across Indian country, in some cases completely alleviating the need for State and local services to individuals. As a result of this unchanging law, we have become outliers in Indian country, economically underperforming when compared to tribes across the continental U.S.

So, with that, I'd like to say I look forward to our continued partnership and forging a new path forward that is not only better for our tribe but is also better for this great State that we all call home. Thank you.

The Chair welcomed the Honorable Rena Newell, Chief of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik, to the rostrum.

Chief Newell then addressed the Convention.

Chief **NEWELL**: *Woliwon*. Thank you. *Woli-sepawiw*. It's a good morning. As I begin, I was going to describe to you the Welcome Song. However, I would defer to the song sung by Lauren Stevens, that being the Humble Song.

Ci-woliwon to Passamaquoddy tribal citizen Lauren Stevens, the daughter of former Chief Richard Stevens of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township who addressed this legislative Body during the first State of the Tribes address. He is here today. He is seated in the gallery. I'm not sure if he received recognition at the start but it's good to have you here, former Chief Richard Stevens. *Ci-woliwon*.

I am happy to have traveled here from Sipayik, located on the edge of Passamaquoddy land, on the shore of Passamaquoddy Bay, home to the beautiful and proud people of the *beskemookadic*. The Passamaquoddy tribal government and community of tribal citizens of the most eastern tribe to welcome the sunrise from the east. We are part of the Wabanaki, the People of the Dawn.

As the daughter of Mary Ursula and the late Timothy John Newell Sr. who served as a former Council Member, former Lieutenant Governor of Sipayik and until his earthly departure proudly served as a member of our school board at Sipayik. As the great granddaughter of the Honorable Passamaquoddy Tribal Representative Lewis Mitchell, as a mother of two to two amazing daughters, Courtney and Kiley, as the *ookama*, a grandmother of three grand-girls, Lovella, Daneae and Nius, I humbly stand before you now in a good way to bring forth a message as the Chief of the Passamaquoddy tribe at Sipayik. *Diliwis* Rena Newell. My name is Rena Newell. *Goolazekwilfa*. I greet you. As I begin, I want to offer gratitude and recognition once again to those in attendance. To Speaker of the House, Representative Rachel Talbot Ross, *ci-woliwon*. House Majority Leader, Representative Maureen Terry, *ci-woliwon*. Assistant House Majority Leader, Representative Kristen Cloutier, Republican Leader Representative Billy Bob Faulkingham, Assistant Republican Leader Amy Arata. And, of course, to the Senate President, Mr. Troy Jackson. Thank you. And to the Senate and the Honorable and Distinguished Members of the

Senate and the House of Representatives, it's truly my honor to be with you once again.

As the former Tribal Representative to this Body, you have heard my words before. I've had the privilege of speaking on the floor of this House in the last four years. I appreciated your patience then and I ask for it once again today. I am once again honored to be here among the Honorable Chiefs of the Wabanaki Tribes; Chief Clarissa Sabattis of the Houlton Band of Maliseets, Chief Charlie Peter Paul of the Mi'kmaq Nation, Chief William Nicholas of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkomikuk and Chief Kirk Francis of the Penobscot Nation. These Wabanaki tribal leaders hold a combined 50 years of leadership experience in serving their respective communities. I would be remiss if I did not also introduce you, please, if I may, I also would like to introduce you to the Vice-Chief of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik, Vice Chief Pos Bassett, who is here with me today in the audience.

I'd also like to send gratitude and appreciation to having the Associate Supreme Court Justices, whom I just met in the Speaker's office, Justice Lawrence and Justice Mead. Thank you for sharing this time with us today. To Congressman Golden, *ci-woliwon* for traveling here today. Thank you for your visit to Sipayik and I look forward to continuing our work together. Thank you. To Penobscot Nation Ambassador Maulian Dana, Maliseet Ambassador Zeke Crofton-Macdonald, and Passamaquoddy Tribal Representative Aaron Dana, Honorable Tribal Elders, tribal citizens, former Tribal Representatives, and Tribal Council Members and tribal attorneys, *ci-woliwon* for being here today. And to the singers and the drummers that traveled here today, that welcome this day. I especially wish to acknowledge our youth in attendance and the Maine Indian Education students that are watching today, serving under the direction of Penobscot Nation tribal citizen Principal Lee Francis, the Penobscot Nation students, serving under the direction of Passamaquoddy tribal citizen Interim Principal, my sister, Molly Newell, Motahkomikuk Elementary School. And serving under the direction of Principal Dan Morang, the Sipayik Elementary School students. To all that stand in support of the Wabanaki Nation tribes, members of the Maine Indian Tribal State Commission, the Wabanaki Alliance, and the Wabanaki Alliance Coalition, *ci-woliwon*. Thank you very much for being here today.

While these acknowledgements may have taken a bit of my speaking time, I feel it is important to give recognition, appreciation, and send gratitude and greetings to those that are in this shared space.

On March 11, 2002, I watched in awe at the State of the Tribes address, held for the first time in Maine history, led by the work of my friend, the Honorable Donna Loring, while serving as the Penobscot Nation Tribal Representative. I recall how proud I was to see tribal Chiefs presented in full traditional regalia, each articulating their respective written speeches before the legislative branch. I was connected by the hopeful words that I heard, yet I was filled with more pride of the visual representation of my culture through the tribal leadership heard on that day. Twenty-one years later, on March 11, 2023, I began to write words that I have come to learn may have been shared before. Today is beyond symbolic. Today, just as I did 21 years ago, I will appreciate the words heard before me and those that will follow. And it is certainly my hope that those in attendance today and watching and the members of this great State, the citizens of the State of Maine, will also hear the messages brought forth on this day.

My speech right now tells me to go off script, so, I am going to do that. I want to share this morning when I woke, I felt rushed. I felt I had limited time. What would you say? How would you deliver it? And then I was like well, they've heard me before, they've heard me speak before, they've allowed me to go off a little bit, go a little bit longer. I appreciate that. I think it's very fitting that the choice that I made and the option of this part of my speech, this is now my choice. I would now like to quote the words of my great-grandfather, who spoke to this same legislative Body. These remarks were from 1887 and they detail the history of contributions to this country.

In 1775 or 1776, in the struggle between Great Britain and America, your people came to us for assistance. You authorized Colonel John Allan to speak to us. You said he is our mouth, believe what he says to you. After many kind words and promises, Francis Joseph, who was Chief of the tribe at that time, accepted his offer. He promised to go and help his people gain their independence. Immediately, he sent his captains to different points of his country to notify his people to prepare for immediate war. In a few days, Francis Joseph gathered an army of 600 men. At that time, and many years before that, the Passamaquoddy Tribe was the headquarters of the Wabanaki nation. The Passamaquoddy Tribe can show you by statement of Joshua Driscoll of Jonesport how the Passamaquoddy Indians faithfully fought for the American people to help them gain their independence. And the Passamaquoddy Tribe also can show you by affidavit of William Watt of Jonesboro, Maine, one of the revolutionary soldiers, how he was alongside a Francis Joseph, the Chief, and heard him ask permission from Captain Smith to fire the first gun. And Captain Smith gave him permission. He fired and killed an officer who was in the stern of the boat, the distance measuring nearly three-quarters of a mile from where it fired. And we can also show you by the same affidavit how many Indians were in the Army. It was 600 men and they served two years. The Passamaquoddy Tribe can show you by letter from Colonel John Allan when he authorized the Passamaquoddy Indians to guard the coast from Machias to Passamaquoddy Bay and authorized them to seize the enemy's vessels, and according to his orders, we can show you by the affidavit, Captain Sopiell Soctomah, with 50 others of his tribe, captured an army schooner in Passamaquoddy Bay. And they ran her to Machias and gave her up to Colonel John Allan. And we can also show you by the statement of John Allan, Jr., how the Passamaquoddy Indians followed the enemy from Machias to Castine. The Passamaquoddy Tribe can show you by the affidavit of Magaset Frost, who saw the Indians at Castine and told how they faithfully fought for the Americans.

Now, nearly all of these statements were sworn to before magistrates and we can also show you many different histories that mention how the Passamaquoddy Indians fought for you, such as Hall's history, Williamson's history and the history of the Town of Machias. And how by all of these statements, histories and traditions, no doubt the Indians must have served in that war. We can also further show you by the letter dated in Massachusetts in 1780, after the war was over, in that letter you said to us on account of the large army we supplied and dry summer of this year, we cannot send you any supplies. But you promised us you would. You would see to our just claims in future. We can now show many old documents and letters before the Revolutionary War and during the war, if necessary. Now, about these before-mentioned letters and affidavits, we were advised by some intelligent persons to present them to the Maine Legislature. They said to us if they favor you, they will refer them to Congress. They said to us it may not come in the form of pensions, but you stand a chance to get something for

your services from the general government. We know the Indians who served in that war are passed out of existence but the Passamaquoddy helped the Americans in that war and the tribe is still in existence. Now we humbly ask your attention to help us. Now look at this yourselves and see whether I'm right or wrong. If you find any insulting language in my speech, I ask your pardon. I don't mean to insult anybody but simply tell you of our wrongs. Lewis Mitchell of the Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indians presented to the State of Maine House of Representatives on March 8, 1887.

In closing, I just want to say *ci-woliwon* for the opportunity to have spoken to you. I think it was important for me to convey who was in the room, who's listening to the words before you, how will they be received. And I thought it was important to go to the past. We could speak of the present, we could speak of the future, but it's present to reflect upon the past in order to move towards the future. My words are words that have been spoken long ago. The words of my great-grandfather is an example and I thought today would be a fitting day to share his words once again. *Ci-woliwon afjudge*.

The Chair welcomed the Honorable Kirk Francis, Chief of the Penobscot Nation, to the rostrum.

Chief Francis then addressed the Convention.

Chief **FRANCIS**: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President, Madam Speaker, members of leadership, and all of you in this room. What a terrific day. It was just five years ago when things were broken so badly that the Penobscot Nation, after 200 years of holding a Representative seat here, chose to walk out. It seemed impossible and unfixable and here we are and it's a credit to all of you in this room. Thank you so much.

I know a lot of people have been acknowledged already. I will not do that again but I feel there's one person I should acknowledge in the room. I have members of my council here, our Ambassador, obviously, and many of our citizens. You don't get too far in life without support. I'd like to acknowledge somebody who's worked on behalf of Indian people her whole life, grew up on her own Indian reservation and for some reason took pity on me and married me. So, my wife, Allison.

So, as Chief of the Penobscot Nation, I bring you greetings on behalf of our Vice Chief Mark Sockbeson, our Tribal Council, and our Ambassador, Maulian Dana and the citizens of our great tribe. The Penobscot Nation is proud to be part of the Wabanaki Confederacy. I am honored to be here today with my brother and sister Wabanaki nations. Penobscot people have lived in this territory for over 10,000 years. It is our home today and it will be forever. Our history and culture are bound to this territory, its land and natural resources. Our name comes from our sacred river and our main community, Indian Island, is located near Old Town in the Penobscot River and serves as our seat of government.

The Penobscot people have been buried on Indian Island for thousands of years. We continue to preserve and respect that final resting place for our people. I was raised on Indian Island and one day I'll be proud to be buried there. I share this with you so you can understand the commitment of the Penobscot Nation government and its people to this territory. To its well-being, to its future. We are not like some corporate entity that will shut down and move out of State when there's no more profits to be made. We have forever been here and we will forever remain here. We are committed to our lands and our economic well-being but also committed to our neighbors and their economic well-being.

We no longer subscribe to accepting the things that we cannot change but focus, rather, to change the things we cannot accept. We want to work with our neighbors and with you to find ways to make all of Maine prosper. At the beginning of the American Revolution in 1775, Chief Joseph Orono and other Penobscot leaders traveled to Watertown to address the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts, which included the territory of Maine. The purpose of Orono's visit was to present grievances on behalf of the Penobscot people. One of the grievances was a Phipps Proclamation which declared war on the Penobscot in 1755 and authorized bounties for scalps of Penobscot men, women and children. Chief Orono obviously wanted the killing of Penobscot people to end and he also wanted six miles of land on either side of the Penobscot River to be reserved for our people and protected from trespass. In exchange, he committed the Penobscot Nation to fight alongside the American colonists in their struggle for independence from the British Crown. The Massachusetts government agreed to the bargain and the Penobscot Nation fought in the Revolutionary War on the side of the Americans and defended this territory we now know as Maine.

Since the American Revolution, Penobscot people have fought in every military conflict, much more than any other American population. One of our oldest citizens, Charles Shay, served as a medic on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day in 1944. He ended up a prisoner of war twice in his service but still managed to come home to Indian Island. Today, there is a statue of a turtle on the beaches of Normandy, pointing towards Indian Island, and we have one here, pointing towards France, to remind us of Penobscot's critical support during World War II. This is just one example of the amazing veteran community we have. Penobscot Nation has always fought for life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. We have always fought for freedom and for the protections of this land, and we will continue to do so.

Over the past few years, there has been a decent amount of press coverage on the Wabanaki nations and our desire to reassess the limitations on our sovereignty that were put in place in 1980 through the Land Claims Act. Many people are confused as to exactly what we want. So, I want to try to address some of that today.

In 1970, President Richard Nixon gave a special address to Congress announcing a new federal policy towards American Indians. This was being done, according to Nixon, after centuries of injustice and failed federal policies such as forced termination and assimilation. The national policy would be one of Indian self-determination, focusing on strengthening tribal nations' autonomy by increasing opportunities for education, economic development and self-governance. More than 50 years later, the federal policy announced by Nixon continues to be in place. Historians, economists and many others praised the policy as one of the most successful in United States history. It has led to not only improvements in tribal communities but also in the regional communities in which tribes are located.

The new federal policy of self-determination also included the federal government doing better at upholding its obligations to American Indian tribes. This included the federal government bringing litigation on behalf of tribes for the wrongful loss of tribal land. That is what happened in Maine. Litigation was brought by the federal government against the State of Maine in 1972 regarding the wrongful taking of Penobscot and Passamaquoddy land. Ultimately, two settlements were reached between the Tribal Nation, State of Maine and Federal Government. The settlements had to be ratified by Congress and that happened in 1980.

These settlements extinguished our land claims. In exchange, we received money from the federal government for the reasonable value of the land. It should be noted the State of Maine did not contribute one dime to that settlement. The tribes pushed for inclusions of provisions that allow us to govern ourselves, our land, free from outside interference. However, the State included provisions that said no federal law enacted to benefit Indians before or after the settlement shall apply in Maine if it impacts State jurisdiction.

Time has shown that the State can object to almost any federal law applying to the tribes in Maine. This has led to significant restrictions on our sovereignty and our ability to self-govern our lands and resources. It has also led us to having significantly less rights and powers than any other tribe in the United States. More importantly, ad hoc objections from the State have created a chilling effect on federal agencies and private companies wanting to work with us to create economic, social and public safety opportunities. Opportunities that would benefit not just us, but also the entire region in which we are located.

The federal policy of self-determination has been reaffirmed by almost every President since Nixon. Yet, in Maine, we are stuck in 1980s policy and the tribes have had to commit significant resources towards trying to advocate on a case by case basis to be included in federal laws that are passed and supposed to apply to us. Our federal representative, Congressman Jared Golden, who is here today, fought for a bill last Congress to have every new federal beneficial act apply to the Wabanaki nations and I'd like to take an opportunity to recognize his courage and strength and fight on that issue.

The Harvard University concluded that the bill would have provided significant benefits to the Wabanaki nations and rural Maine. Yet, unfortunately, the bill died in the Senate.

The Penobscot people and Wabanaki nations are Mainers. The blood, sweat, and tears of our ancestors run through this land and it will continue to do so for generations to come. We are not going anywhere. All we want is for State government to break decisively from the past and join the era of self-determination for tribal nations that has proven so successful throughout the rest of the country. We are capable of self-governance and should be treated as partners rather than threats to the future of the State. We want a relationship with State government that is based on mutual trust, fidelity and respect. A relationship that recognizes the unique contributions of Wabanaki peoples to this State and promotes our self-determination without interference.

The state of the Penobscot Nation is strong. Our history is one of endurance, survival, of adapting in the face of overwhelming obstacles. We are still here. We have made an enormous contribution to the existence of this State, to its outdoor culture, its art, its sense of history, strength and purpose. The Penobscot Nation is strong but we can be stronger through partnerships. We are one of the largest employers in our region. We operate over 110 programs including public safety, tribal court, housing, social services, natural resource protection, health and education, to name a few. Our tribal health department, as a shining example of self-governance and self-determination, was critical at successfully navigating us through the COVID pandemic and we worked with State and local health agencies on a regular basis to share information and resources. We provided services to all our employees and their family members and work to support everyone connected to our community regardless of whether they were Penobscot or not. We donated thousands of pieces of personal protective equipment to local medical facilities

during the shortages and we serviced hundreds of people for COVID-related issues. We delivered over 150,000 meals during that period and not one of our employees lost a day of pay. That's self-determination and self-governance.

And although our economic development and business development still lags far behind most other tribal nations in the country, we are working creatively to address these challenges and we welcome all ideas and partnerships. We are not opposed to development but believe in responsible and sustainable development. These lands and natural resources have to last us and other Maine people forever. We cannot ruin them for profits today but need to responsibly manage them so they can benefit us all for generations to come.

The Penobscot Nation owns more than 100,000 acres. Two-thirds of this land is managed for forestry. We do it in a sustainable manner. Our forestry operations support hundreds of jobs in this State and we use all local vendors to do this work. We spend significant time, effort and resources monitoring the Penobscot River and its watershed. The Penobscot River is not just a body of water; it is a living relative and we truly connect with our ancestors there. We collect more water quality samples in the river than any other entity in the State and we work extensively to enhance habitat for species within its ecosystem. All Mainers benefit from a healthy river and we all share a responsibility to care for it. And we focus on our youth by providing programs to help them get educated to become future leaders and I'm proud to report to you today that just last year, the Penobscot Nation Youth Council was named National Youth Council of the Year among 574 federally-recognized tribes across this country.

So, our future is bright. The Penobscot Nation is strong. But we can be stronger and we can be better engines for regional economic development and general welfare if the State is willing to change the dynamics of our relationship to one that recognizes our self-governing abilities, sovereignty over our land, and provides us access to federal beneficial acts intended to benefit all Indian tribes. The last four years have been very productive in advancing tribal-State relations. With your help, we are able to make significant advancements on water quality standards, collaboration on State policies that directly impact us, tax treatment of activities occurring on our lands and access to participate in the new industry of mobile sports betting. We were ready and capable of taking on these new responsibilities and so much more. Think of us as partners for Maine's future. When we get the privilege to participate in new industries such as mobile sports wagering, we make sure to also benefit longstanding Maine institutions such as the harness racing industry, horsemen's association, agricultural fairs. These institutions are quintessential Maine and we recognize the need to keep them. Every dollar the Penobscot Nation generates in profit remains in Maine. We don't have shareholders; we have citizens and a vast majority of them live here. There is a movement back to a Made in America economy. The Penobscot Nation fully supports Made in America and asks that you remember native America when developing policies to advance Maine's future. Maine's indigenous voices and knowledge are critical to the advancement of our State.

I want to thank again Speaker Talbot Ross, Leader Billy Bob Faulkingham, Senator Troy Jackson and others for coming to Penobscot Nation and participating in bipartisan talks with the Wabanaki leaders about how to build on these past successes. I am confident that we can make more progress and am ready to roll up my sleeves and do the work.

I also want to thank the people of Maine, and this is very important, who have taken the time to become educated and engaged in the issues that the Penobscot Nation and Wabanaki Nations face. Countless numbers of you have come to rallies, testified before the Legislature, wrote op-eds and sent your well wishes. You have said loud and clear that you want a better relationship to exist between the State and the Wabanaki Nations. Your friendship has meant everything.

And, lastly, I want to thank the Penobscot people for continuing to put their trust in me and work with me to advocate for progress for our tribal community and region. We are all in this together and together we can make more progress. It has been my honor to be here today. I am proud to be part of the Wabanaki family and I'm also very proud to state to you today that the Penobscot Nation remains a proud, strong and powerful nation. Thank you so much.

The Chair welcomed the Honorable Edward Peter Paul, Chief of the Mi'kmaq Nation, to the rostrum.

Chief Peter Paul then addressed the Convention.

Chief **PETER PAUL**: (The Chief gave a greeting in his native language). Greetings. I am Chief Edward Peter Paul of the Mi'kmaq Nation. We are one of 30 Mi'kmaq communities on Turtle Island. We stand with our brothers and sisters from the land of the Wabanaki, our traditional territories, to give you the state of our tribes. Thank you, President Jackson, Speaker Ross, Leader Faulkingham, Republican Leader Trey Stewart; sorry, I don't know all the technical terms, you know, there's so many here. And Congressman Golden, you know, thank you for coming. This is a great event, it's about time that the State does something like this. Without you guys' leadership and understanding of the benefits of having native nations within State boundaries, we would not have this opportunity to speak with all of you today.

As a State, we are only as strong as our weakest link. This Body has an opportunity to strengthen one of the State's weakest link. Weakest link, not in the form of its people and culture, but in the form of growth and prosperity. This weakest link is our Native nations who are still fighting for our rights of self-determination instead of participating in the growth of the prosperity of the State we live in and love. Just as any strength can be someone's greatest weakness, and any weakness can become a strength, we the people in this legislative Body and tribal leaders have an opportunity to shape Maine's future and rural economy by working together and using our advantages to the best of our ability. It's time as leaders in our communities to build and create opportunities for all residents in Maine, tribal and nontribal. We have made much progress in the past four years but there is more work to be done. With open hearts and minds, with honesty and fair dialogue, there's no doubt we can create solutions that will not only benefit the Wabanaki people, but all Maine people. Walking hand in hand moving forward together, we can work towards the goals of ensuring self-determination for Wabanaki nations while lifting up all of Maine.

My nation survives on federal grants and grants alone. We don't have any economic development. We don't have a way to generate revenue on our tribal lands to better our community because we are so restricted by the State. My nation is in survival mode. We cannot focus on economic development and prosperity. We are just trying to survive the day. We want an opportunity to self-determine our prosperity, our future. The onus of success and failure should be on us and not the State determining what success or failure is of our nation.

As Tribal Chief, I am tasked with the protection of the health, safety and welfare of my tribe. It is often difficult to address these issues without self-determination on our lands. We don't have a tribal court to adjudicate our citizens, which means we don't have a police force to protect our citizens. We get limited federal funding for health care, which is not enough. Native Americans in Maine life expectancy is 20 years less than the non-natives. With a high rate of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, along with addiction epidemic that is touching many families across Maine, we are all in constant battle of survival. These are some of the major issues. Despite hardships mentioned, we continue to persevere the best we know how. We have made differences where we have the authority and are held responsible.

We all know the 1980s agreement is outdated, must be modernized, and has not had the prosperous effects of all that had hoped 43 years ago. We are asking to be put on the same footing as 570 federally-recognized tribes across the country. Those tribes are subjected to federal Indian laws passed by Congress. We are asking to be treated fairly and on those same footings. Those tribes have seen 61% personal income growth since 1989, while the tribes in Maine have only seen 9% growth in that same period. We need to work together to bring prosperity to State and local communities using the advantage we have, which includes the federal beneficial laws for our Indian nations. We are not asking for handouts. We are asking to self-determine our destiny.

There are numerous examples across the United States in ways states and tribes can coexist. Here in Maine, we need to find a way to move our State and our communities forward as friends, not adversaries; as neighbors, not enemies. Nothing is stronger than when people can come together, work together and prosper together. Thank you.

The Chair welcomed the Honorable William Nicholas, Sr., Chief of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkomikuk, to the rostrum.

Chief Nicholas then addressed the Convention.

Chief **NICHOLAS**: Thank you. I guess I get the challenge of being able to entertain you a little bit more and, going fifth, I was able to hear from the other tribal leaders and it's always important, but one of the things that's being here today that I keep hearing is the inequities that Maine tribes are receiving across the State. I haven't even got to my presentation yet, but I made a promise, going fifth, that I; some of you had visited my administration and I talked for an hour and a half and in that hour and a half, I did not go on script. And the Speaker asked me in the end if she could have my script and I gave her my notes. I said that's all I have. So, I have the tendency after a long time of being able to articulate the challenges, the successes, and finding balances within government and the economics of it all.

Before I start, I need to recognize, even though she's going to say not to, my wife of 34 years. I heard Chief Francis state earlier that the backbone. Well, she's put up with me through a law enforcement career as well as being Chief and she is my backbone and she is a leader in our community. I need to recognize my wife, Lucy Nicholas. *Woli-sepawiw*, Senate President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross, House Republican Leader Faulkingham, Members of the House and Senate, distinguished guests, Senator Trey Stewart, Representative Golden, Justice Mead, Justice Lawrence, Tribal Leaders from the Passamaquoddy Tribe, Mi'kmaq Nation, Maliseet, Penobscot, elders of all of our communities and tribal citizens. (The Chief gave a greeting in his native language). What that

means is I am Chief William Nicholas of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township. (The Chief spoke in his native language). You will hear this in Passamaquoddy towards the end of my speech again and then I'll tell you what it means.

On December 24, 1776, during the Revolutionary War, General Washington asked for the help of the Passamaquoddy and the Penobscot. You've heard this earlier; without hesitation, it is documented that over 600 Passamaquoddy and Penobscot agreed to serve. Wabanaki have served in every conflict since, without even having the right to vote until 1967 when Native Americans were granted the right to vote in Maine. Maine was one of the last states in the country to comply with the Citizen Act, even though the 15th Amendment passed in 1870 granted all citizens the right to vote regardless of race.

Sovereignty means the ability to govern oneself without outside interference. The Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township resides mainly in Washington County, a natural resource-based tribe. We employ just over 200 employees in our administration at Motahkomikuk, with businesses in northern Washington and Somerset Counties. The Passamaquoddy Tribe Indian Township operates a fully staffed community health center, providing health care, substance use counseling, dental, EMS and a MAT program. We provide 24-hour emergency services in law enforcement, warden service, fire and rescue, 24-hour dispatch, one of only two providing 24-hour services in Washington County. Passamaquoddy Tribe's judicial system includes a juvenile wellness court, one of two in the United States, a tribal court with jurisdiction over civil, class D criminal and child welfare cases. We own and operate two 8A federal contracting businesses with locations in Mechanicsville, Maryland, Hollywood, Maryland, Augusta, Georgia and Fredericksburg, Virginia. We own and operate high-stakes bingo in Washington County on reservation. We operate under State law, obtain a license and pay licensing fees to the State. The Passamaquoddy Tribe is also a partner in American Unagi eel aquaculture in Waldoboro, Maine. We are also partners with Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness to address substance use and treatment on and off reservation throughout the State to native people who are in crisis.

I must ask all of you; Republican, Democrat, and Independents, and Tribal Representatives; although we have created business that helps funds infrastructure, elderly services, health care and many other internal operations of the Passamaquoddy tribe, do you notice that most of our operations are in other counties or out of State? The Land Claims Settlement Act of 1980 was to resolve land claims. It was never meant to hinder economic development and dissolve our sovereign right to make decisions on our own lands. Maine Indian Tribal State Commission was developed to help foster the relationship between the State and the tribes and their recommendations have not been accepted. The Legislature has passed multiple bills in the House and the Senate to address the inequities in treatment of the Wabanaki Tribes, only to fall short to the signature of a veto in almost every instance. I am a Republican. I am a Democrat. I am an Independent. What does that mean? I am a Tribal Chief serving my fourth four-year term. It means I have an obligation to serving the best interests of the totality of the people regardless of party affiliation or family. Imagine a day when conflict can once again be resolved by understanding others, supporting the neediest, addressing inequities and racism, making Maine the best place to live and raise a family. There is nothing we can't work on together, together, with understanding, compassion and respect.

The Passamaquoddy Tribe's sovereign right to fish, hunt, trade and provide a living has been controlled by the State since

signatory in 1980. Education, health care, economic development have had continual interference, slowing down growth for the tribe to address health disparities and educational opportunities through economic development projects that continue to fall short, with businesses having to be developed outside of our reservation and in other states.

The disparity between wage growth and Wabanaki communities in Maine and tribal communities elsewhere from 1990 until now show that levels around Indian country have grown 60%, which you heard earlier, and only 9% in Wabanaki communities in Maine. The Harvard reports show that many tribes across the country have larger, more diverse tribal governments than here in Maine, largely because of our lack of access to federal law, which blocks development. Harvard concluded that our workforce is underdeveloped because our governments are underdeveloped as a result of the settlement restrictions on our sovereignty. Limited sovereignty is not sovereignty. The opportunity to address the unfair treatment that Maine tribes have received since 1980 can be worked on and end with this legislative Body of leaders.

There is a clear history that has not changed. Almost every treaty made has been broken, modified or interpreted to benefit the State. We must come together to make some positive, inclusive change and recognize the sovereignty of Maine tribes within their respective reservation and current trust lands. Wabanaki tribes have a huge economic impact in the counties and towns we live in. Passamaquoddy Tribe is one of the largest employers in Washington County. If you combine Sipayik with Motahkomikuk, it's got to be close to or over 400 employees, within the top five in Washington County. We support our local businesses, helping to keep the ma and pop stores open. We all have an obligation to bring forward and address the inequities of the people that we represent. Maine tribes are the only tribes in the country that do not have the access to federal laws that get passed in Congress that benefit all of Indian country. Let's make that change together, recognize the complete sovereignty of the Maine tribes, and move forward in making a better State for all who live here. (The Chief spoke in his native language). We must unite together. We must unite together. That's what I just said to you. (The Chief spoke in his native language). In Passamaquoddy, what I just read to you is: It is our responsibility as leaders of the tribes, nations, and the State to unify behind recognizing the inequities of all people across the State and recognize the sovereignty of the Wabanaki tribes.

In closing, I need to thank everybody for being able to hear us today and also I missed a few in the beginning. The Attorney General, Shenna Bellows, and several others that are here in leadership positions along with our representation from Washington County and our Tribal Representative. I would like to say thank you for being here and pushing forward for the Maine tribes and we hope to work closely more with all of you.

Thank you and I appreciate the opportunity to speak.

The Chair welcomed Dwayne Tomah of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik to the rostrum for the performance of the Come Together Song.

Mr. **TOMAH**: First of all, it's an honor to be here this afternoon. Number one, to be able to come together. What a wonderful opportunity to be able to come together today to make changes. This is an opportunity for us to make changes today and I'm really excited about; I've been here many times and we want to come together. Let this year be the change. Let this year be the change in how we treat Wabanaki people. Let's show the ultimate respect to one another. *Molikadina*. You've

heard those words from our chiefs, *molikadina*. I want to share this with you. *Molikadina* means let's work together. That message has always been brought here. We have always continued to bring that message. *Molikadina*. It's all in our language. That's how we view the world. How we work together. Our relationship with the earth, our relationship with one another, how we look out for one another. It's all communal because that's what it's about. We're a big community. Let's not allow anybody to separate us. Because that's what's happening. In our ceremonies, it's called *aldocawogin*. It's bringing people together, sharing songs, sharing stories. So, it's an honor for me to share this song with you. It's an old song from the Wax Cylinders of 1890, Thomas Edison's Wax Cylinders. Passamaquoddy Wax Cylinders is what they are and this one is about bringing people together.

At this point, Dwayne Tomah of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik performed the Come Together Song.

The CHAIR: The Chair would like to thank Dwayne Tomah for his wonderful rendition. On behalf of the Speaker, who I want to make sure gets recognition for the hard, hard work that she put into today, I do think it would not have happened without her level of commitment. I also want to, as I sit here and watch this great event, I also am struck by the fact that one person that didn't get recognized, along with former Senator Mike Carpenter but that would be Senator Donna Bailey, yes, Senator Donna Bailey, who I think about six years ago brought forward an idea that I think is an accumulation here today. Senator Bailey, thank you for your efforts. So, on behalf of the Speaker and Members of the 131st Legislature, the Chair very much would want to thank the Tribal Chiefs for their address of the State of the Tribes today in Maine. Thank you for being here, thank you for what you've given to all of us, including myself, the education and the hope that we can do much better being together.

Chief Sabattis, Chief Newell, Chief Francis, Chief Peter Paul and Chief Nicholas withdrew amid the applause of the Convention, the audience rising.

The purpose for which the Convention was assembled having been accomplished, the Chair declared the same dissolved.

The Senate then retired to its chamber.

(After the Joint Convention)

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair wants to add her thanks, sincere thanks to the Tribal Chiefs, to all the tribal citizens who were here today, the dignitaries that have come today, the tribal government that have come today, for all of the Members of this Chamber and the Senate Chamber who were here today and listened respectfully to the messages in this very historic State of the Tribal Nations.

The following items were taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 461)

JOINT RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

WHEREAS, Maine women of every race, class and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our State in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

WHEREAS, Maine women have played and continue to play critical economic, cultural and social roles in every sphere of the life of our State, whether in the workforce or as unpaid labor within homes and community settings, and as the majority of the State's volunteer workforce; and

WHEREAS, Maine women of every race, class and ethnic background have served and continue to serve as leaders in the establishment of charitable, philanthropic, commercial and cultural institutions in our State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Maine women have protected and defended our collective rights, responsibilities and freedoms in myriad spheres, including serving our country courageously in the military; and

WHEREAS, Maine women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and increased opportunity, but also in expanding the rights of all who experience oppression as leaders in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement and the peace and justice movement, among others, all of which work to create a more fair and just society for all; and

WHEREAS, despite these contributions, the role of Maine women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued in the literature, teaching and study of American history; and

WHEREAS, Congress sent the Equal Rights Amendment to the states for ratification more than 50 years ago, and it is long past time that the principle of women's equality be enshrined in the federal and state constitutions; and

WHEREAS, despite progress, women and girls, especially women and girls of color, still experience higher rates of poverty, violence and discrimination and face systemic barriers to full participation in the workforce and society and wider gaps in opportunity and equality, disparities that were exposed and exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic, which multiplied the burden on paid and unpaid caregivers and increased the rates of gender-based violence; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to designate March 2023 as Women's History Month, a time to celebrate and honor the contributions of all Maine women and girls, and to recognize March 8, 2023 as International Women's Day.

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

READ.

On motion of Representative TERRY of Gorham, **TABLED** pending **ADOPTION** and later today assigned.

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 462)

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2023 AS SUDDENLY SLEEPY SATURDAY, A DAY FOR NARCOLEPSY AWARENESS

WHEREAS, narcolepsy is a chronic neurological disorder caused by the brain's inability to regulate sleep-wake cycles; and

WHEREAS, narcolepsy affects an estimated 1 in every 2,000 Americans; and

WHEREAS, narcolepsy is an often unrecognized and undiagnosed condition; and

WHEREAS, the symptoms of narcolepsy, especially when undiagnosed, can lead to accidents, injuries and problems with learning and working; and

WHEREAS, narcolepsy affects people neurologically, socially and emotionally; and

WHEREAS, narcolepsy affects people of all ages, with onset typically occurring between 15 and 25 years of age; and

WHEREAS, on average, it takes a patient over 6 years to be diagnosed with narcolepsy after first experiencing symptoms; and

WHEREAS, research shows that narcolepsy patients have an increased prevalence of high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease and diabetes; and

WHEREAS, narcolepsy patients need trained providers to address the patient's disorder and treat additional underlying health concerns; and

WHEREAS, Narcolepsy Network is a national organization created to promote awareness of the disease and provide support for those who suffer from narcolepsy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize Saturday, March 11, 2023 as Suddenly Sleepy Saturday, a day to raise public awareness of narcolepsy.

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **ADOPTED**.
READ and **ADOPTED** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Change Responsibility for Animal Control Officer Training to the Department of Public Safety"
(S.P. 455) (L.D. 1121)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund New Affordable Housing for Low-income Households"
(S.P. 443) (L.D. 1074)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Clarify the Criminal Statutes with Regard to Assaults on Emergency Medical Services Persons"
(S.P. 453) (L.D. 1119)

Bill "An Act Regarding Certification Credentials for the Office of Sheriff"
(S.P. 458) (L.D. 1124)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Address Student Hunger and Nutrition Through Expanded Access to Free Milk in Schools" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 465) (L.D. 1128)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Impose a Fee on Commercial Water Withdrawn from Lakes and Ponds to Fund Conservation Efforts and Prohibit a Fee on the Sale of Water Withdrawn from a Lake or Pond"

(S.P. 450) (L.D. 1081)

Resolve, to Increase Community Action Grants

(S.P. 463) (L.D. 1126)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Increase the Number of Recovery Beds in the State"

(S.P. 447) (L.D. 1078)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Require the Termination of Private Mortgage Insurance"

(S.P. 449) (L.D. 1080)

Bill "An Act to Advance the Maine Retirement Savings Program" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 451) (L.D. 1082)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Fund Consultation Services to Ensure Affordable Health Care for Maine Residents"

(S.P. 446) (L.D. 1077)

Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** suggested and ordered printed.

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** in concurrence.

Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Create a Process for Real-time Confirmation of Live Bait Retailer's Licenses by Electronic Means

(S.P. 464) (L.D. 1127)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding Visitation Rights of Grandparents"

(S.P. 448) (L.D. 1079)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Create a Presumption That a Cardiovascular Injury or Disease or Pulmonary Disease Suffered by Certain Law Enforcement Officers Is in the Course of Employment"

(S.P. 457) (L.D. 1123)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act Requiring a Referendum to Restore the Former Maine Flag"

(S.P. 438) (L.D. 1069)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Promote Economic Growth Through Increased Film Incentives"

(S.P. 444) (L.D. 1075)

Bill "An Act to Reduce the Sales Tax on Automobiles"

(S.P. 452) (L.D. 1118)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **TAXATION** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding the Bureau of Motor Vehicles"

(S.P. 441) (L.D. 1072)

Bill "An Act to Expand the Use of Traffic Cameras for School and Work Zones"

(S.P. 445) (L.D. 1076)

Resolve, to Install a Suicide Barrier on the Penobscot Narrows Bridge (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 454) (L.D. 1120)

Resolve, to Rename Bridges in the Town of Cornish

(S.P. 456) (L.D. 1122)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Increase Ballot Transparency with Blockchain Technology"

(S.P. 439) (L.D. 1070)

Bill "An Act to Allow Political Candidates to Be Nominated by Multiple Parties for the Same Office"

(S.P. 440) (L.D. 1071)

Bill "An Act to Streamline Label Registrations for Malt Liquor, Wine, Hard Cider and Low-alcohol Spirits"

(S.P. 442) (L.D. 1073)

Resolve, Directing the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations to Study Paying Bonuses to Agents for Selling Certain Powerball Tickets

(S.P. 459) (L.D. 1125)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** in concurrence.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Provide Rural Sober Living Housing for Mothers"

(H.P. 712) (L.D. 1116)

REFERRED to the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** in the House on March 9, 2023.

Came from the Senate **REFERRED** to the Joint Select Committee on **HOUSING** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

The House voted to **INSIST**.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 89)

STATE OF MAINE

131ST MAINE LEGISLATURE

February 17, 2023

Chief Edward Peter Paul

Aroostook Band of Micmacs

Chief William J. Nicholas, Jr.

Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkmikuk

Chief Kirk Francis

Penobscot Indian Nation

Chief Clarissa Sabattis

Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians

Chief Rena Newell

Passamaquoddy Tribe at Sipayik

Dear Chiefs:

It is our pleasure to invite you to visit the Legislature on Thursday, March 16, to attend a Joint Convention to be held in the Hall of the House of Representatives at 10:45 a.m. for the purposes of reporting on the State of the Tribes in Maine.

We look forward to hearing from you and understand that each of you will address the Joint Convention for 10 minutes or less. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your acceptance of this invitation.

S/Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 90)
**MI'KMAQ NATION
7 NORTHERN ROAD
PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE 04769**

March 1, 2023
Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:
Thank you for the invitation to address the Legislature on the State of the Tribes on Thursday, March 16, 2023. I look forward to attending and speaking at the Joint Convention.

Sincerely,
S/Edward Peter Paul
Tribal Chief

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 91)
**HOULTON BAND OF MALISEET INDIANS
88 BELL ROAD
LITTLETON, ME 04730**

March 1, 2023
Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross,
On behalf of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, I would like to thank you for the invitation to address the Legislature on the State of the Tribes on Thursday, March 16, 2023. I feel that this is just another step forward to a stronger relationship between the Wabanaki Tribes and the State of Maine. I appreciate the request and the effort that it has taken to plan for this address. I look forward to attending and speaking at the Joint Convention.

Woliwon,
S/Chief Clarissa E. Sabattis

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 92)
**INDIAN TOWNSHIP TRIBAL GOVERNMENT
PASSAMAQUODDY TRIBE
BOX 301
PRINCETON, MAINE 04668**

March 1, 2023
Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross,
Thank you for the invitation to address the Legislature on the State of the Tribes on Thursday, March 16, 2023. I look forward to attending and speaking at the Joint Convention.

Sincerely,
S/Chief William J. Nicholas, Sr.
Passamaquoddy Tribe – Indian Township

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 93)
**PASSAMAQUODDY TRIBE
PLEASANT POINT RESERVATION
P.O. BOX 343
PERRY, MAINE 04667**

March 1, 2023
Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross,
Thank you for the invitation to address the Legislature on the State of the Tribes on Thursday, March 16, 2023. I look forward to attending and speaking at the Joint Convention.

Sincerely,
S/Chief Rena Newell

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 94)
**PENOBSCOT NATION
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF AND COUNCIL
12 WABANAKI WAY
INDIAN ISLAND, MAINE 04468**

March 1, 2023
Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross,
Thank you for the invitation to address the Legislature on the State of the Tribes on Thursday, March 16, 2023. I look forward to attending and speaking at the Joint Convention. Thank you both for the opportunity to discuss the issues our Tribal Nations face and how we can better position both our governments to work together to resolve them and build on the successes we have had.

Sincerely,
S/Kirk E. Francis, Chief
Penobscot Nation

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 95)
**STATE OF MAINE
131ST MAINE LEGISLATURE**

March 1, 2023
Honorable Janet T. Mills
Governor, State of Maine
1 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Dear Governor Mills:

We are pleased to invite you to a Joint Session of the 131st Maine Legislature on Thursday, March 16th for the State of the Tribes Address in the House Chamber, at 10:45 am. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
S/Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 96)
**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

March 9, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (l) (a), I have appointed Representative Allison Hepler of Woolwich to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, effective immediately.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 99)
**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

March 9, 2023
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (l) (a), I have appointed Representative Shelley Rudnicki of Fairfield as the Republican Lead on the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs replacing Republican Lead Representative John Andrews of Paris, effective immediately.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding this appointment.

Sincerely,
S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 100)
**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0001**

March 13, 2023
Honorable Troy Jackson
Senate President
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

Thank you for inviting me to the State of the Tribes address before a Joint Session of the 131st Maine Legislature. Regretfully, I am unable to attend the address.

I care for the health, welfare, opportunity, prosperity, and future of the Wabanaki people, just as I care for every person in Maine. We have different histories, but today we call this beautiful place we know as Maine our home. I look forward to the ongoing discussions between my Administration, the Wabanaki people, and the State Legislature, and to continuing our work together to make real progress on behalf of the Wabanaki people and all people of Maine.

Sincerely,
S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 97)

**STATE OF MAINE
CLERK'S OFFICE
2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

March 16, 2023

Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Talbot Ross:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the following Joint Standing Committees have voted unanimously to report the following bills out "Ought Not to Pass:"

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

L.D. 562 An Act to Ensure Maine Residents Have Priority Access to State Park Campsites

L.D. 634 An Act to Allow Open Burning in the Snow Without a Permit

L.D. 644 An Act to Include Cats in the Laws Governing Animal Trespass

Education and Cultural Affairs

L.D. 64 An Act to Ensure In-state Tuition for Postsecondary Students Who Are Registered to Vote in the State

L.D. 173 An Act Regarding the Responsibility for Technology Instruction Marketing Costs by the Maine Community College System

Energy, Utilities and Technology

L.D. 266 An Act to Increase Consumer Choice and Reduce Motor Vehicle Emissions in Maine

Environment and Natural Resources

L.D. 627 An Act to Promote Clean and Affordable Maine-sourced Bioenergy by Amending the Law Regarding Outdoor Wood Boilers and Outdoor Pellet Boilers

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

L.D. 368 An Act Regarding Circumstances Under Which an Automobile Insurer May Decline to Renew a Policy

Judiciary

L.D. 452 An Act to Reform the Laws Regarding the Payment of Criminal Fines

L.D. 578 RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Concerning the Publication of Maine Indian Treaty Obligations

Labor and Housing

L.D. 635 An Act to Allow a Retired Law Enforcement Officer to Serve as a School Resource Officer Without Affecting That Officer's Retirement Benefits (EMERGENCY)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

L.D. 561 An Act to Require a Military Service Member's Agent with Power of Attorney to Be Legally Responsible for Paying Bills During the Member's Deployment

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

READ and with accompanying papers **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication: (H.C. 98)

**STATE OF MAINE
CLERK'S OFFICE
2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

March 14, 2023

Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Talbot Ross:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Health and Human Services has approved the request by the sponsor, Speaker Talbot Ross of Portland, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 520 An Act to Retain Home and Community-based Workers by Increasing MaineCare Reimbursement for Certain Essential Support Workers

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Judiciary has approved the request by the sponsor, Representative Stover of Boothbay, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 836 An Act to Codify Forfeiture by Wrongdoing as an Exception to the Rule Against Hearsay

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Marine Resources has approved the request by the sponsor, Representative Warren of Scarborough, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 851 An Act to Clarify That Maine Holds Title to Its Intertidal Lands

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

READ and with accompanying papers **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication: (S.C. 176)

**MAINE SENATE
131st LEGISLATURE**

March 9, 2023

Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0002

Dear Speaker Talbot Ross:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A. §158 and Joint Rule 506 of the 131st Maine Legislature, please be advised that the Senate today confirmed the following nominations:

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry:

- Dr. John M. Jemison, Jr., Ph.D. of Orono for reappointment, to the Board of Pesticides Control.

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Labor and Housing:

- Glenn W. Burroughs of Winthrop for reappointment, to the Workers' Compensation Board,
- Penny Picard of Palmyra for reappointment, to the Workers' Compensation Board.

Best Regards,

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

Bill "An Act to Protect the Environment by Funding Ash Tree Management"

(H.P. 734) (L.D. 1162)

Sponsored by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and Representatives: COLLINGS of Portland, DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, MEYER of Eliot, MURPHY of Scarborough, PERRY of Calais, WORTH of Ellsworth, Senator: RAFFERTY of York.

Resolve, Requiring the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Convey Interest in a Parcel of Land at the Newfield Wildlife Management Area to a Private Landowner

(H.P. 761) (L.D. 1201)

Sponsored by Representative SAMPSON of Alfred.
Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of Cumberland and Representatives: LANIGAN of Sanford, WOODSOME of Waterboro.

Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Promote the Design, Development and Maintenance of Trails for Outdoor Recreation and Active Transportation"

(H.P. 728) (L.D. 1156)

Sponsored by Representative FAY of Raymond.
Cosponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin and Representatives: HENDERSON of Rumford, KUHN of Falmouth, LANDRY of Farmington, MILLETT of Waterford, PLUECKER of Warren, SOBOLESKI of Phillips, Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, INGWERSEN of York.

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Capital Improvements for Arts and Cultural Facilities"

(H.P. 735) (L.D. 1163)

Sponsored by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, DODGE of Belfast, DOUDERA of Camden, GATTINE of Westbrook, MEYER of Eliot, MORIARTY of Cumberland, PERRY of Calais, Senator: ROTUNDO of Androscoggin.

Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Recognize the Critical Nature of Workforce Development Through Career and Technical Education by Establishing an Adjustment for Career and Technical Education Centers in the School Funding Formula"

(H.P. 730) (L.D. 1158)

Sponsored by Representative WHITE of Waterville.
Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset and Representatives: BRADSTREET of Vassalboro, LANDRY of Farmington, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, PERRY of Bangor, WOODSOME of Waterboro, Senators: CURRY of Waldo, RAFFERTY of York.

Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Conduct a Study on the Equity of the State Education Subsidy Formula

(H.P. 732) (L.D. 1160)

Sponsored by Representative GEIGER of Rockland.
Cosponsored by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox and Representative: MATLACK of St. George.

Bill "An Act to Continue the Department of Education Diploma Program Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 736) (L.D. 1164)

Sponsored by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York and Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, CROCKETT of Portland, DODGE of Belfast, DOUDERA of Camden, GATTINE of Westbrook, MEYER of Eliot, ROBERTS of South Berwick, Senator: ROTUNDO of Androscoggin.

Bill "An Act to Establish the School Meal Equipment and Program Improvement Fund"

(H.P. 755) (L.D. 1183)

Sponsored by Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, CROCKETT of Portland, PLUECKER of Warren, SARGENT of York.

Bill "An Act to Require Public Schools to Allow Parents and Guardians to Opt Out Their Children with Respect to Portions of the Curriculum"

(H.P. 756) (L.D. 1196)

Sponsored by Representative CARLOW of Buxton.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BLIER of Buxton, DRINKWATER of Milford, LYMAN of Livermore Falls, POMERLEAU of Standish.

Bill "An Act to Provide Transparency in Public School Curricula"

(H.P. 759) (L.D. 1199)

Sponsored by Representative HENDERSON of Rumford.
Cosponsored by Senator KEIM of Oxford and Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, JAVNER of Chester, SAMPSON of Alfred.

Bill "An Act to Reinstate the Religious and Philosophical Vaccine Exemptions for Private Schools and Virtual Public Charter Schools"

(H.P. 769) (L.D. 1209)

Sponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland.
Cosponsored by Representatives: DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, RISEMAN of Harrison, THERIAULT of Fort Kent, WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor.

Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Require Communications Service Providers to Prorate Customer Bills for Cancellation and Allow a Reduction in Service for a Customer with an Outstanding Balance"

(H.P. 739) (L.D. 1167)

Sponsored by Representative PERRY of Bangor.

Bill "An Act to Provide for the Review and Uniform Application of All Transmission and Distribution Utility Rates"

(H.P. 747) (L.D. 1175)

Sponsored by Representative ADAMS of Lebanon.

Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** suggested and ordered printed.
REFERRED to the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** and ordered printed.
Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Raise Funding to Support Waste Reduction, Reuse, Recycling and Composting in Maine"
(H.P. 743) (L.D. 1171)

Sponsored by Representative BELL of Yarmouth.
Cosponsored by Representatives: DOUDERA of Camden, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, ZEIGLER of Montville.

Bill "An Act to Reestablish Annual Reporting on Solid Waste in Maine"
(H.P. 744) (L.D. 1172)

Sponsored by Representative BELL of Yarmouth.
Cosponsored by Representatives: DOUDERA of Camden, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, O'NEIL of Saco, ZEIGLER of Montville.

Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** suggested and ordered printed.
REFERRED to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed.
Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Establish a Pilot Project Regarding Harm Reduction Health Centers"
(H.P. 731) (L.D. 1159)

Sponsored by Representative OSHER of Orono.
Cosponsored by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox and Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, BOYER of Poland, CRAFTS of Newcastle, DHALAC of South Portland, LaROCHELLE of Augusta, RISEMAN of Harrison, ROEDER of Bangor, SAYRE of Kennebunk.

Bill "An Act to Fund Free Health Clinics"
(H.P. 733) (L.D. 1161)

Sponsored by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, COLLINGS of Portland, CRAVEN of Lewiston, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, MEYER of Eliot, MURPHY of Scarborough, PERRY of Calais, WORTH of Ellsworth.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products"
(H.P. 746) (L.D. 1174)

Sponsored by Representative PERRY of Bangor.
Resolve, to Reduce Barriers to Recovery from Addiction by Expanding Eligibility for Targeted Case Management Services
(H.P. 750) (L.D. 1178)

Sponsored by Representative MADIGAN of Waterville.
Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset and Representatives: GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, SAYRE of Kennebunk, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, SUPICA of Bangor.

Bill "An Act to Improve the Health of Maine Residents by Closing Coverage Gaps in the MaineCare Program for Incarcerated Persons"
(H.P. 764) (L.D. 1204)

Sponsored by Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and Representatives: MEYER of Eliot, NUTTING of Oakland, Senators: BAILEY of York, BRAKEY of Androscoggin, FARRIN of Somerset.

Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** suggested and ordered printed.
REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and ordered printed.
Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Deceptive Advertising in Limited Pregnancy Services Centers"
(H.P. 723) (L.D. 1137)

Sponsored by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.
Cosponsored by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland and Representatives: KUHN of Falmouth, LOOKNER of Portland, MOONEN of Portland, MORIARTY of Cumberland, O'NEIL of Saco, RECKITT of South Portland, SHEEHAN of Biddeford, Senator: CARNEY of Cumberland.

Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** suggested.
On motion of Representative MEYER of Eliot, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Enhance Cost Savings to Consumers of Prescription Drugs"
(H.P. 737) (L.D. 1165)

Sponsored by Representative CRAVEN of Lewiston.
Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and Representatives: FREDERICKS of Sanford, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, JAVNER of Chester, MEYER of Eliot, PERRY of Calais, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, Senators: INGWERSEN of York, MOORE of Washington.

Bill "An Act Regarding the Scope of Practice of Certified Professional Midwives and Certified Midwives"
(H.P. 765) (L.D. 1205)

Sponsored by Representative MEYER of Eliot.
Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and Representatives: ANDREWS of Paris, KUHN of Falmouth, PERRY of Calais, PRINGLE of Windham.

Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** suggested and ordered printed.
REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed.
Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Allow Sunday Hunting by Landowners on Their Land"
(H.P. 738) (L.D. 1166)

Sponsored by Representative HALL of Wilton.
Cosponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin and Representatives: COSTAIN of Plymouth, LAVIGNE of Berwick, MORRIS of Turner, PAUL of Winterport.

Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** suggested and ordered printed.
REFERRED to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and ordered printed.
Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Stabilize Licensing Fees"

(H.P. 729) (L.D. 1157)

Sponsored by Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield.

Cosponsored by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin and Representatives: ANDREWS of Paris, CAMPBELL of Orrington, FREDERICKS of Sanford, GREENWOOD of Wales, MASON of Lisbon, MORRIS of Turner, QUINT of Hodgdon, SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Foreign Credentialing and Skills Recognition Revolving Loan Program"

(H.P. 741) (L.D. 1169)

Sponsored by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston.

Cosponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin and Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, BRENNAN of Portland, DHALAC of South Portland, LAJOIE of Lewiston, LaROCHELLE of Augusta, ROBERTS of South Berwick, ZAGER of Portland, Senator: DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.

Resolve, Directing the Department of Economic and Community Development to Convene a Working Group to Improve the State's 10-year Economic Development Strategy

(H.P. 758) (L.D. 1198)

Sponsored by Representative MILLETT of Waterford.

Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and Representatives: BRADSTREET of Vassalboro, COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, MOONEN of Portland, NESS of Fryeburg.

Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Prevent Coerced Abortion"

(H.P. 757) (L.D. 1197)

Sponsored by Representative ARATA of New Gloucester.

Cosponsored by Senator KEIM of Oxford and Representatives: BRADSTREET of Vassalboro, DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe.

Bill "An Act to Clarify Deadlines in the Freedom of Access Act and Disclosure Provisions in the Intelligence and Investigative Record Information Act"

(H.P. 763) (L.D. 1203)

Sponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland.

Cosponsored by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin and Representatives: ANDREWS of Paris, HENDERSON of Rumford, LEE of Auburn, LIBBY of Auburn, POIRIER of Skowhegan, RECKITT of South Portland, SUPICA of Bangor.

Committee on **JUDICIARY** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Create a Grant Program for Workplace Health and Safety Improvements"

(H.P. 766) (L.D. 1206)

Sponsored by Representative O'CONNELL of Brewer.

Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding Emergency Management Funding for Municipal Shelters"

(H.P. 719) (L.D. 1133)

Sponsored by Representative ADAMS of Lebanon.

Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** suggested.

On motion of Representative ROEDER of Bangor, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Reestablish the Marine Recreational Fishery Advisory Council at the Department of Marine Resources"

(H.P. 751) (L.D. 1179)

Sponsored by Representative RUSSELL of Verona Island.

Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: CRAFTS of Newcastle, DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, DAVIS of East Machias, DOUDERA of Camden, EATON of Deer Isle, LANDRY of Farmington, PERRY of Calais, STROUT of Harrington.

Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Clarify Term Limitations for Legislators, Constitutional Officers and the State Auditor"

(H.P. 722) (L.D. 1136)

Sponsored by Representative TERRY of Gorham.

Cosponsored by Senators: DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, VITELLI of Sagadahoc.

Bill "An Act to Address Legislative Salaries"

(H.P. 727) (L.D. 1155)

Sponsored by Representative WOODSOME of Waterboro.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, MOONEN of Portland, OSHER of Orono, TERRY of Gorham, Senator BRENNER of Cumberland and Representatives: FREDERICKS of Sanford, LANIGAN of Sanford, SAMPSON of Alfred.

Bill "An Act Directing the Bureau of General Services to Ensure Adequate Air Quality in All State-owned and State-leased Buildings"

(H.P. 745) (L.D. 1173)

Sponsored by Representative MONTELL of Gardiner.

Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, COPELAND of Saco, KESSLER of South Portland, MALON of Biddeford, O'CONNELL of Brewer, RISEMAN of Harrison, SHAGOURY of Hallowell.

Bill "An Act to Allow for the Recall of an Elected Municipal Official for Any Reason"

(H.P. 753) (L.D. 1181)

Sponsored by Representative ANDREWS of Paris.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BAGSHAW of Windham,
GREENWOOD of Wales, RUDNICKI of Fairfield.

Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**
suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Ensure that Carbon Credits Can Be Sold on Forest Land Enrolled in the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law"

(H.P. 721) (L.D. 1135)

Sponsored by Representative BOYLE of Gorham.
Cosponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin and
Representatives: COLLINGS of Portland, MADIGAN of
Waterville, MALON of Biddeford, PERRY of Bangor.

Bill "An Act to Allow Municipalities to Tax Personal Solar Energy Equipment Under 5 Megawatts"

(H.P. 725) (L.D. 1153)

Sponsored by Representative WOODSOME of Waterboro.

Cosponsored by Senator HARRINGTON of York.

Bill "An Act to Adjust Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Rates"

(H.P. 740) (L.D. 1168)

Sponsored by Representative PERRY of Bangor.
Cosponsored by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.

Bill "An Act to Create Municipal Cannabis Revenue Sharing"

(H.P. 748) (L.D. 1176)

Sponsored by Representative ADAMS of Lebanon.

Bill "An Act to Make Revisions to the Tax Increment Financing and Development District Laws"

(H.P. 754) (L.D. 1182)

Sponsored by Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook.

Bill "An Act to Increase the Homestead Exemption to \$50,000"

(H.P. 762) (L.D. 1202)

Sponsored by Representative THERIAULT of Fort Kent.
Cosponsored by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland and
Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, BOYER of Poland,
CARMICHAEL of Greenbush, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor,
PERRY of Bangor, QUINT of Hodgdon, SKOLD of Portland,
Senator: LIBBY of Cumberland.

Committee on **TAXATION** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **TAXATION** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Improve Work and Family Mobility by Altering and Removing Certain Requirements for Driver's Licenses and Nondriver Identification Cards"

(H.P. 724) (L.D. 1138)

Sponsored by Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland and
Representatives: RANA of Bangor, WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor,
Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot.

Resolve, to Promote Passenger Rail for Commuters

(H.P. 742) (L.D. 1170)

Sponsored by Representative O'NEIL of Saco.

Cosponsored by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland and
Representatives: MALON of Biddeford, MASTRACCIO of Sanford,
SACHS of Freeport, WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor,
Senators: DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, INGWERSEN of York,
PIERCE of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act to Assess a Slip Fee on Megayachts Registered in Overseas Tax Havens"

(H.P. 749) (L.D. 1177)

Sponsored by Representative LOOKNER of Portland.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland,
CRAFTS of Newcastle, DILL of Old Town, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor,
GEIGER of Rockland, HEPLER of Woolwich,
LANDRY of Farmington, WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor.

Bill "An Act to Add an Exception to the Law Regarding Intermediate Driver's Licenses Regarding Passengers"

(H.P. 752) (L.D. 1180)

Sponsored by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich.

Resolve, to Convene a Driver Education Working Group to Evaluate Hardships to Underserved Populations and Low-income Families

(H.P. 760) (L.D. 1200)

Sponsored by Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick.

Cosponsored by Senator CURRY of Waldo and
Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, FAY of Raymond,
LaROCHELLE of Augusta, MEYER of Eliot, PLUECKER of Warren,
ROEDER of Bangor, STOVER of Boothbay, WHITE of Waterville.

Bill "An Act to Establish a Maine Highway Capital Fund to Provide Consistent Funding for the Construction and Repair of Maine's Roads and Bridges"

(H.P. 770) (L.D. 1210)

Sponsored by Representative DUCHARME of Madison.

Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset and
Representatives: CARLOW of Buxton, MILLETT of Waterford,
Senator: BENNETT of Oxford.

Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Allow Certain Liquor Sellers to Conduct Off-premises Taste-testing Events and Retail Sales"

(H.P. 718) (L.D. 1132)

Sponsored by Representative LANDRY of Farmington.

Cosponsored by Representative COLLINGS of Portland and
Representative: HEPLER of Woolwich, Senator: DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.

Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Improve Housing Affordability by Amending the Definition of 'Subdivision' Under the Site Location of Development Laws"

(H.P. 720) (L.D. 1134)

Sponsored by Representative BOYLE of Gorham.

Bill "An Act Regarding Accessory Dwelling Units and Municipal Zoning Ordinances"

(H.P. 726) (L.D. 1154)

Sponsored by Representative WOODSOME of Waterboro.

Cosponsored by Senator HARRINGTON of York.

Joint Select Committee on **HOUSING** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Joint Select Committee on **HOUSING** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

ORDERS

On motion of Representative RIELLY of Westbrook, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 717) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ANDREWS of Paris, CARLOW of Buxton, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, DHALAC of South Portland, GERE of Kennebunkport, RECKITT of South Portland, Senator: ROTUNDO of Androscoggin)

JOINT RESOLUTION DESIGNATING MARCH 12, 2023 TO MARCH 18, 2023 AS AMERICORPS WEEK IN MAINE

WHEREAS, service is a hallmark of the American character and has the unique ability to bring people of all backgrounds together in common cause, and throughout our history citizens have stepped up to meet our most pressing challenges of the day by volunteering in their communities; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors programs provide opportunities for more than 200,000 Americans to serve their country through service at nonprofits, schools, public agencies and community and faith-based groups across the country; and

WHEREAS, in the State of Maine, more than 2,700 AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers of diverse ages and backgrounds helped to meet local needs at more than 200 locations in the State of Maine by responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, tutoring or mentoring children and youth, supporting veterans, combatting the opioid epidemic, ensuring citizens can age in their communities, working to end hunger in Maine, supporting new Maine residents, restoring the environment, repairing the effects of adverse childhood experiences and working with communities on building resilience; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers encourage collaboration and partnerships, leveraging millions of volunteers in service and acquiring the support of businesses, foundations and other local partners to increase the effectiveness of their initiatives; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps and AmeriCorps Seniors programs bring people together across race, age and place to address critical issues facing the country, forge relationships and cultivate mutual respect and help build resilient and thriving communities; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers demonstrate commitment, dedication and patriotism by making an intensive commitment to service, a commitment that remains with them in their future endeavors; and

WHEREAS, through their service, AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers strengthen the lives of their families, communities and the State of Maine as a whole; and

WHEREAS, national service represents a unique public-private partnership that invests in community solutions and leverages nonfederal resources to strengthen community impact and increase the return on taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS, AmeriCorps Week is an opportunity to recognize the dedication and commitment of the more than 1.2 million Americans who have chosen to serve their country through AmeriCorps and millions more who have served in AmeriCorps Seniors and their community partners and to encourage more Americans to follow in their footsteps in service; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, designate March 12, 2023 to March 18, 2023 as AmeriCorps Week in Maine and urge citizens to thank AmeriCorps members and alumni and AmeriCorps Seniors volunteers for their service and to find their own ways to give back to their communities.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Westbrook, Representative Rielly.

Representative **RIELLY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. This week is AmeriCorps week. I want to recognize the more than 2,700 AmeriCorps members and AmeriCorps senior volunteers who have served across our State in over 200 locations.

Our AmeriCorps members mentor our youth, support our veterans, help combat the opiate epidemic, protect our environment and create communities centered around service. Service can unite not just all Mainers but all Americans. It can bridge the divides in our society and bring out our very best. There is no greater feeling than being able to serve your neighbor and your community. And, I want to personally thank all AmeriCorps members currently in Maine for their service to our State. Thank you.

Subsequently, the Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Sent for concurrence.

On motion of Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, the following House Order: (H.O. 13)

ORDERED, that Representative Daniel J. Ankeles of Brunswick be excused Mar 9 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative James A. Boyle of Gorham be excused Mar 2 and 7 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Danny Edward Costain of Plymouth be excused Feb 9 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Lucas John Lanigan of Sanford be excused Feb 28 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Sheila A. Lyman of Livermore Falls be excused Mar 2 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Daniel J. Newman of Belgrade be excused Mar 7 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Tiffany Strout of Harrington be excused Mar 2 for personal reasons.

READ and PASSED.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE
Refer to the Committee on Judiciary
Pursuant to Statute

Representative MOONEN for the **Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary** on Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Public Records Exceptions"

(H.P. 767) (L.D. 1207)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 411, subsection 6, paragraph G.

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

Sent for concurrence.

Refer to the Committee on Judiciary
Pursuant to Statute

Representative MOONEN for the **Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary** on Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Time Estimates for Responding to Public Records Requests"

(H.P. 768) (L.D. 1208)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 411, subsection 6, paragraph G.

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

Sent for concurrence.

Change of Committee

Report of the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** on Bill "An Act to Increase the Bag Limit for Smelts for Personal Use from 2 Quarts to 4 Quarts"

(S.P. 261) (L.D. 593)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES**.

Came from the Senate with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES**.

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** in concurrence.

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-6)** on Bill "An Act to Support Rural Service Programming and Promote Volunteerism"

(H.P. 89) (L.D. 143)

Signed:
Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

BRENNAN of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth
MURPHY of Scarborough
SARGENT of York
WORTH of Ellsworth

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
LYMAN of Livermore Falls
POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset
SAMPSON of Alfred

READ.

On motion of Representative TERRY of Gorham, **TABLED** pending **ACCEPTANCE** of either Report and later today assigned.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Repeal the Law Regarding the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program"

(H.P. 227) (L.D. 376)

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York
GROHOSKI of Hancock
HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

ZEIGLER of Montville
BABIN of Fort Fairfield
BOYLE of Gorham
KESSLER of South Portland
RUNTE of York
WARREN of Scarborough

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

DUNPHY of Embden
FOSTER of Dexter
PAUL of Winterport

READ.

On motion of Representative TERRY of Gorham, **TABLED** pending **ACCEPTANCE** of either Report and later today assigned.

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Maine Parentage Act Regarding Joinder of Parties"

(H.P. 83) (L.D. 137)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
BAILEY of York

Representatives:

MOONEN of Portland
KUHN of Falmouth
LEE of Auburn
MORIARTY of Cumberland
POIRIER of Skowhegan
RECKITT of South Portland
SHEEHAN of Biddeford

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

LYFORD of Penobscot

Representatives:

ANDREWS of Paris

HAGGAN of Hampden

HENDERSON of Rumford

Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe - of the House - supports the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report.

READ.

On motion of Representative TERRY of Gorham, **TABLED** pending **ACCEPTANCE** of either Report and later today assigned.

Majority Report of the Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act Regarding the Monitoring of Municipal Abandoned Property"

(H.P. 90) (L.D. 144)

Signed:

Senators:

GROHOSKI of Hancock

CHIPMAN of Cumberland

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

PERRY of Bangor

CARMICHAEL of Greenbush

CROCKETT of Portland

HASENFUS of Readfield

LAVIGNE of Berwick

MATLACK of St. George

QUINT of Hodgdon

RANA of Bangor

RUDNICKI of Fairfield

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

LIBBY of Auburn

READ.

On motion of Representative TERRY of Gorham, **TABLED** pending **ACCEPTANCE** of either Report and later today assigned.

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

In accordance with House Rule 519, the following items appeared on the Consent Calendar for the First Day:

(S.P. 13) (L.D. 21) Resolve, Designating Maine Turnpike Approach Road in South Portland as Samantha Smith Way Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(S.P. 36) (L.D. 44) Resolve, to Rename the Bridge Between Bingham and Concord Township on Route 16 the Jason Dore Memorial Bridge Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(S.P. 59) (L.D. 120) Bill "An Act Regarding the Committee Structure of the State Workforce Board" Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(S.P. 128) (L.D. 269) Bill "An Act to Designate Granitic Pegmatite as the Maine State Rock" Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(S.P. 139) (L.D. 318) Resolve, to Designate the Route 170 Bridge Located in Webster Plantation the Gary "Swampy" Worster Memorial Bridge Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(S.P. 140) (L.D. 319) Bill "An Act to Amend Maine's Underground Oil Storage Tank Laws" Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(S.P. 219) (L.D. 502) Resolve, Designating the Desert of Maine Overpass the Matthew MacMillan Overpass Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 251) (L.D. 418) Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 100: Enforcement Procedures, a Major Substantive Rule of the Maine Health Data Organization (EMERGENCY) Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass**

Under suspension of the rules, Second Day Consent Calendar notification was given.

There being no objection, the Senate Papers were **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** in concurrence and the House Paper was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** and sent for concurrence.

ENACTORS

Acts

An Act to Amend the Law Governing the State Grant Program Administered by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission

(H.P. 19) (L.D. 15)

An Act to Establish Maine Needham Day

(H.P. 190) (L.D. 292)

An Act to Establish Maine Alewife Day

(H.P. 218) (L.D. 344)

Reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

The following items were taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

SENATE PAPERS

Resolve, Requiring the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Document, Disclose and Publish All Best Management Practices Regarding the Use of Noise Devices to Control Birds at Orchards (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 477) (L.D. 1150)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Recapitalize the School Revolving Renovation Fund"

(S.P. 481) (L.D. 1185)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Burden of Proof for Defendants Who Cannot Pay Criminal Restitution"

(S.P. 485) (L.D. 1189)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Improve Ferry Service Reliability by Providing Scholarships at the Maine Maritime Academy"

(S.P. 466) (L.D. 1139)

Bill "An Act to Ban Monitoring Software Targeting Maine Students"

(S.P. 471) (L.D. 1144)

Bill "An Act to Prohibit COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates for Students Enrolled in Public Institutions of Learning"

(S.P. 475) (L.D. 1148)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Protect Inpatient Psychiatric Services in Northern Maine by Preserving the Current Reimbursement Rate"

(S.P. 483) (L.D. 1187)

Bill "An Act to Establish a Public Health Response to Substance Use"

(S.P. 484) (L.D. 1188)

Bill "An Act to Implement Work Requirements Under the MaineCare Program"

(S.P. 490) (L.D. 1194)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Address Late Medical Billing by Limiting Hospital Billing to One Year"

(S.P. 470) (L.D. 1143)

Bill "An Act to Authorize Certain Health Care Professionals to Prescribe Methadone"

(S.P. 473) (L.D. 1146)

Bill "An Act to Decrease Barriers for Preventive Health Services by Allowing Pharmacy Technicians to Administer Vaccines"

(S.P. 478) (L.D. 1151)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Make Long-term Disability Insurance Coverage Available to Public Employees"

(S.P. 479) (L.D. 1152)

Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** suggested and ordered printed.

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding Transparency of Medical Billing"

(S.P. 487) (L.D. 1191)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** in concurrence.

Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Develop a Hunting and Fishing Software Application

(S.P. 482) (L.D. 1186)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** in concurrence.

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Strengthen the Due Process Rights of Persons Accused by Requiring Notification of Those Rights

(S.P. 476) (L.D. 1149)

Bill "An Act Regarding the Composition of the Judiciary"

(S.P. 488) (L.D. 1192)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Ensure a Fair Workweek by Requiring Notice of Work Schedules"

(S.P. 486) (L.D. 1190)

Bill "An Act to Allow Residents of Low-income Housing to Keep Pets"

(S.P. 489) (L.D. 1193)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Create the Southern Maine Coastal Waters Commission"

(S.P. 472) (L.D. 1145)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Provide That Documents Obtained by Subpoena by the Government Oversight Committee May Be Reviewed by Committee Members and Staff"

(S.P. 491) (L.D. 1195)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Exempt Gold and Silver Coins and Bullion from the State Income Tax"

(S.P. 474) (L.D. 1147)

Bill "An Act to Exempt Certain Prescribed Home Medical Supplies from Sales Tax"

(S.P. 480) (L.D. 1184)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **TAXATION** in concurrence.

Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Allow All-terrain Vehicle Traffic on a Section of Trail in the City of Caribou

(S.P. 467) (L.D. 1140)

Bill "An Act to Improve Access and System Preservation by Providing Shoulders and Bicycle Lanes on State Roadways Leading to State Parks and Other Significant Destinations"

(S.P. 468) (L.D. 1141)

Bill "An Act to Eliminate Motor Vehicle Registration Fees for Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Emergency Medical Services Providers"

(S.P. 469) (L.D. 1142)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** in concurrence.

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 492)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at 10:00 in the morning, or until the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively.

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **PASSED**.

READ and **PASSED** in concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

On motion of Representative DHALAC of South Portland, the House adjourned at 2:12 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 21, 2023, or until the call of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, respectively, pursuant to the Joint Order (S.P. 492).