

Anne Coughlin
Peaks Island
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My name is Anne Coughlin and I now live on Peaks Island, after moving to Maine from Colorado. I grew up with aunts, uncles and cousins who are enrolled members of the Cherokee nation. Their extended families include members of at least six other nations. Sovereignty is personal to me. With my extended family I have tracked over decades how national policies finally shifted to support tribal self-determination and self-government....and the powerful impact these long needed developments are having not just on tribal nations, but the larger communities around them...and on every individual member of these Nations.

The moral arguments for Sovereignty are clear. But the practical ones are also clear, as dramatically demonstrated by data collected and analyzed in a recent study known as the Harvard Report. According to that report, self-government for Maine's tribes would likely mean an additional \$330 million a year in Maine's Gross Domestic Product, more than 2,700 jobs, and \$39 million a year in state and local tax revenue. Based on the experience of other tribes, better than half the new jobs created are likely to be filled by neighbors of Wabanaki tribes in rural Maine.

It is past time for Maine to recognize the full Sovereignty of the Wabanaki Nations. A majority of Mainers have supported Sovereignty through several legislative iterations, and that support continues to grow. There is no excuse for further resistance by our elected leaders to what Maine voters resoundingly support. Thank you for your attention, and for all the hard work you do for our state.