



STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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RACHEL TALBOT ROSS  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Wednesday, May 24th, 2023

*Testimony of Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross supporting*  
***LD 1958, An Act to Provide the Mi'kmaq Nation with Sales Tax Revenue***  
***for Sales Occurring on Mi'kmaq Nation Territory***  
*Before the Joint Select Committee on Taxation*

Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, I am Rachel Talbot Ross. I represent House District 118 which is the Portland peninsula. I also have the distinct honor of serving as the Maine Speaker of the House. I am here today to support **LD 1958, An Act to Provide the Mi'kmaq Nation with Sales Tax Revenue for Sales Occurring on Mi'kmaq Nation Territory.**

During the 130<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the Penobscot Nation and the Houlton Band of Maliseets each gained the right to collect tax revenue created by tribal citizens only that occur on tribal lands. This new provision under LD 585 was signed into law, but did not include the 4<sup>th</sup> tribal nation located in Maine – the Mi'kmaq Nation. LD 1958 would correct the exclusion.

The Mi'kmaq Nation is a federally recognized tribe that has continuously inhabited northern New England and the Canadian Maritime Provinces since time immemorial. The population of Mi'kmaq currently located in Maine number 1,500 tribal citizens, yet just across the Canadian border over 65,000 Mi'kmaq live across 61 tribal reservations.

While the benefits of LD 1959 might not be realized by the majority of Maine citizens, it will considerably impact Mi'kmaq tribal citizens who make their living on tribal lands. Placing that income into the hands of members of the Mi'kmaq will support surrounding communities. The 2019 US Census estimates that the per capita income of Mi'kmaq tribal citizens is \$11,431. The tax dollars that are not being collected by Maine Revenue Services will be a substantial boon for each Mi'kmaq family who can stretch their modest paychecks even further. I thank you for your time and attention today and ask that you act favorably on LD 1958.

**District 118:** Portland neighborhoods of Parkside, Bayside, East Bayside, Oakdale and the University of Southern Maine Campus