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My name is Chris Newell and I'm a citizen of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township.

As a reminder to this body, the sociopolitical status of "Indian" is one created by the language of the US Constitution. Due to the Commerce Clause, the state of Maine, as a state sovereign, has no right to override the process the federal government has created to qualify under the status of an Indian tribe.

The state of Maine would be acting out of its authority by establishing a loose process for "recognizing" groups with "state recognized" status whether they are Native or not.