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To: The Maine Legislature
Committee On Veterans & Legal Affairs

Re: Testimony LD 554

An Act To Create Gaming Equity and Fairness for the Native American Tribes in Maine

Madam and Mr. Chairpersons, respectively;

I offer the following testimony in support of, and suggested amendment to, LD 554, An Act To Create Gaming Equity And Fairness for the Native American Tribes in Maine as follows:

First, it's clear that Maine Natives were not fairly considered for gaming activity during the process that awarded "out of state" entities the economic right to conduct gaming within the State of Maine.

Second, It's clear that Natives all across the US have had gaming as part of the considered rights within their respective jurisdictions.

Third, It's clear that the Native Tribes who reside in Maine were materially economically injured by not only the obstruction of their rights to gaming activity as contained nationally, but their injury became compounded when the State of Maine awarded gaming rights to what should have been their out of state competitors at that time.

Fourth, The State of Maine has created an unfair competitive disadvantage for the Natives in Maine, and that disadvantage is materially and substantial. Those economic disadvantages include, but are certainly not limited to, the existing out of state controlled entities have been able to establish early consumer patterns that will be very expensive to for any future Native entity to change. Further, these out of state controlled entities have been able to accrue capital that makes competing with them much harder.

Therefore, Madam and Mr. Chair, respectfully, I suggest the following amendment be constructed to compensate Maine's Native Americans for the wrongful interference with Natives' right to their economic asset: gaming as contained and interpreted nationally as follows:

Amendment Suggestion: That the current out of state gaming entities' profits be added together on an annual basis, and for the duration of the years contained in the current and applicable Statute of Limitations, that amount be awarded to the Tribes for each of those years for the wrongful interference of their rightful conduct of their economic affairs.

With all due respect, after reviewing that facts around the awarding of gaming rights it's really hard not to see blatant racism.

Thank you to the Committee for your consideration,

Bob Jean