

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002 (207) 287-1400

TTY: (207) 287-4469

RR #1, Box 45
Richmond, ME 04357

Telephone: (207) 737-2608 Fax: (207) 737-2608 E-Mail: dmldab@wiscasset.net

November 20, 2003

Honorable Beverly C. Daggett, Senate President Honorable Patrick Colwell, Speaker of the House #3 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Madam President and Mr. Speaker:

The first State of the Tribes address was a historic event in Maine. It was the first time in our legislative history of over 180 years that the Tribal Chiefs were allowed to address a Joint Legislative Session. The event was featured on the front pages of every Maine newspaper and televised fully statewide as well as broadcast over MPR in full.

This event is one that has made a tremendous difference in the relationship between the tribes and the Legislature as well as the general public. It is of interest to many Mainers and in particular will be of interest this year given the results of the referendum. It is clear that although the referendum lost 2-1, many Maine Citizens are concerned about the tribe's economic status and plans for the future. They have made it clear through e-mails, letters and many phone calls to the Governor's office that they want the State of Maine to help in any way they can. I am certain that, we as policy makers and elected officials, also want to know what the tribes are planning and what issues and events are important to them.

I urge you to approve a "State of the Tribes Address" to a Joint Legislative Session. If you do approve this request I would ask that one change be included. I would ask that the Houlton Band of Maliseets be invited to speak along side the Chiefs of the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy tribes. The Maliseets have a relationship with the State of Maine as evidenced in the Land Claims Settlement Act. Chief Brenda Commander has expressed an interest in addressing the Joint Session along with the other Chiefs.

This request does not include the Mikmaqs as they have continuously stated they want nothing to do with the State.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely

Donna M. Loring

Penobscot Nation Representative

Donne M Loving

cc: Joy J. O'Brien, Secretary of the Senate Millicent M. MacFarland, Clerk of the House House and Senate Leadership