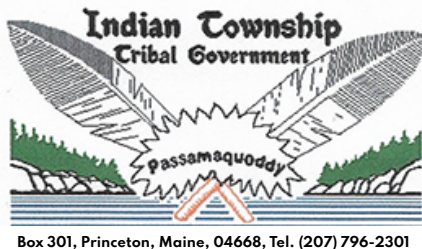


Tribal Governor
William Nicholas, Sr.

Lt. Governor
Darrell Newell

Tribal Representative
Rena Newell



Tribal Council:

Matthew Dana II
Sonja Dana
Elizabeth Neptune
Alexander Nicholas I
Joseph Socobasin
Mali Tomah-Pride

Testimony of Vice Chief Darrell Newell of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkmikuk, Indian Township

In Support of LD 906

“An Act To Provide Passamaquoddy Tribal Members Access to Clean Drinking Water”

Thursday, February 17, 2022

Greetings Committee Chairs Senator Carney, Representative Harnett, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Darrell Newell, I am the Vice Chief of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Motahkmikuk, Indian Township. I also have the honor of serving as a commissioner on the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations. I also sit on the Board of Directors of the Wabanaki Alliance.

Woliwon, Thank you for allowing me to address you today in support of LD 906, “An Act To Provide Passamaquoddy Tribal Members Access to Clean Drinking Water.”

The land now known as Maine is world renowned for clean water. People all over the world can buy bottled water from Maine. But what many people may not know is that there are communities in Downeast Maine that do not have access to clean water, and they never have. The Passamaquoddy Water District, which is a state-regulated entity, has struggled for decades against a poor water supply and inadequate infrastructure in a failing attempt to provide both tribal and non-tribal citizens with drinkable water.

This bill will allow the Passamaquoddy Tribe to access necessary resources to improve drinking water quality at Sipayik, Pleasant Point and the City of Eastport. LD 906 does this in three important ways, by allowing the Passamaquoddy Tribe to regulate water quality in partnership with the federal government, by exempting the Passamaquoddy Water District from property taxes, and by allowing the Tribe to access water through land we already own. These policy goals all represent barriers for Wabanaki tribal communities that no other federally recognized tribes face. I like to consider myself a good neighbor in my community, and taking these steps toward supporting the health, wellness, and inherent rights of those affected by this situation is the right, neighborly thing to do.

No matter what color our skin is or where we come from, we all need clean water to drink, cook, and clean ourselves and our families. But the Land Claim Settlement Act is a roadblock to clean water for the people living in Sipayik, as well as those served by PWD in the City of Eastport and the Town of Perry. Generations of our people have lived and died without clean water because of state laws that prevent us from caring for our water, our land, and our communities. Today, we have the opportunity to join together to reject the policies that have held us all back and allow the Passamaquoddy Tribe to be the

stewards of the water for the people of Sipayik, Pleasant Point, as well as our neighbors. All of our communities can thrive when we have a voice in these decisions.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully urge you to support LD 906.

Kci Woliwon, Thank You