

Chairman Valentino  
Chairman Priest  
Honorable members of the Committee,

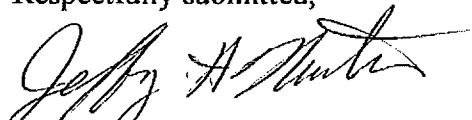
My name is Jeffrey Nicholas and I am the President of the Kineo Band of Malecite Indians. I am the 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandson of Nicholas Joseph, born in 1795 and Genevieve Launiere, born in 1814, both Malecite, who were buried in the Greenville town cemetery in 1872 and 1873 respectively. Their son, Thomas Nicholas, was a well know guide and canoe builder in Greenville. He guided Thomas Sedgwick Steele on a trip from Moosehead to the Aroostook River in 1880 and those adventures were recorded in Steele's 1882 book "Paddle & Portage. Thomas' sons Louis, who was the oldest man ever elected to the position of Tribal Governor of the Penobscots in the 1930's, Charles, Johnston and Andrew were guides in the Mooshead Region in the early to mid 1800's. His daughters Jennie married Joseph D. Mitchell in 1878, Mary Anne married Sebatis Francis in 1875, and Elizabeth married Sokies Nelson in 1884, and Helen married Joseph Socalexix in 1878, all of the Penobscot tribe. My family has maintained a presence in the Mooshead/Dover Foxcroft area ever since as our roots run deep. Today, many cousins along with my aunt Mary Nicholas Libby at the age of 95 still live there.

You may wonder why we have come together and embarked on this venture. It is really quite simple. We are Malecite; we have always been Malecite and will forever remain Malecite. We have had a hole in our hearts all our lives. There was always something that was missing in our souls. We grew up knowing we were Malecite, but not knowing how to be Malecite. We have taught our children, grand children, and Great Grand children that they are Malecite, hoping that someday they would have the opportunity to learn our history, language, stories, songs, and crafts. It has become obvious to us, that unless we make the effort necessary to ensure that these things are done before my generation disappears from this earth, it will disappear with us forever.

None of us have ever experienced Reservation life. We became assimilated. We grew up, we got educated, we served our country and our communities, we became self sufficient. We got over the racism. It was not enough. The hole in our hearts yearns to be filled. We do not ask for Federal recognition, because we are Maine Indians, not Federal Indians. We do not ask for lands because we have our own and need no more. We do not ask for the right to own casinos, because we have no need or desire for them. We do not ask for money because whatever becomes of us, will be determined by our own efforts and abilities. We are proud of our heritage and we are self sufficient. Other Maine Indians are against the State recognizing us as Maine Malecite Indians. I would that they look into their hearts for the answer to why they deny their brothers.

We ask for recognition from the State of Maine, not for monetary reasons, but to prevent those who would deny our legitimacy, from denigrating our efforts to preserve and teach the culture of our ancestors. We wish to live in peace and harmony with our fellow Mainers while filling this hole in our hearts and teaching our descendents how to be Malecite.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey H. Nicholas